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by Andrew Strom, Smith Wigglesworth, John G. Lake, Maria Woodworth- Etter, John Alexander Dowie and others, as well as WILLIAM BRANHAM'S ENIGMA... The Greek words for SII FULL of the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18), should be translated, BE FULL of the Holy Spirit. In other words, we must be constantly searching for God so that we may become ever fuller of His Holy Spirit. Some people believe that we Christians receive only a filling of the Spirit of God in our lives. These people may be sincere, but THEY ARE GENUINELY WRONG. This article is about men and women of God who were not satisfied with a first sign of God's grace or presence in their lives. They were hungry for more, and in their contempt for ever greater depths in God, they broke through every barrier and overcame every obstacle to experience an ever greater measure of God's holy presence and glory, and to obtain an anction of whose kind has rarely been seen since the days of the Apostles. It was MORE OF JESUS that they were starving, and He did not call them, even if the road was often narrow and winding. It was a route that few took care of traveling. But it was simply not enough to be baptized by the Spirit and speak in languages. They were to BE ENDUED WITH POWER FROM ABOVE,- baptized with the Holy Spirit AND WITH FIRE. And they had to see God glorified in their time, as deeply as possible. They couldn't bear to live any more, as things were. Where was the power, where was the glory of the apostolic days? They took it upon themselves, and were almost pushed forward by God - to find out. And so, with fasts and prayers, with agonizing labor and struggle as Jacob had with God, with giving back life not only to their sins, but also to their fleshy and soulful MODI - the ways of man's strength and man's power,- they fought, directly in the throne room of God himself. And when they got there, they were really broken and humiliated men and women, real owners of clean hands and a pure heart. And he met them there in the deepest way. Tell me, man, are you hungry and thirsty after more God? Is it your only desire to love it with ALL your heart and ALL your mind and ALL your soul and ALL your strength? And you want to see it glorified on earth to the highest possible degree? And you will look for me and find me, WHEN HE WILL SEEK ME WITH ALL HIS HEART (Jer. 29:13). SMITH WIGGLESWORTH Smith Wigglesworth was arguably one of the most aoted men of God I have experienced in recent times. He was known as the Apostle of faith, and if anyone deserved to be described as full of faith and the Holy Spirit, it was him. He lived and walked continuously in the presence of God. And the miracles that accompanied his ministry were of the kind rarely seen since the days of the blind and deaf births, cripples - twisted and deformed by disease, others on the door of death with cancer or disease of all kinds,- all were healed by the powerful power of God. The dead were also raised. Born in 1859 in poverty, Smith Wigglesworth was converted by Methodists at the age of eight. Even then, he was hungry for God and souls. He was in the choir of the local Episcopal Church. When most of the choir boys were twelve years old they had to be confirmed by the bishop. I was not twelve years old, but between nine and ten, when the bishop put his hands to my eyes. I remember when he imposed his hands I had an experience similar to the one I had forty years later when I was baptized in the Holy Ghost. My whole body was full of the consciousness of God's presence, a consciousness that remained with me for days. After confirmation, all the other guys were swearing and fighting, and I was wondering what made the difference between me and them. (Stanley Frodsham, 'Smith Wigglesworth, Apostle of faith', pg 13. -Most of the following quotes are also taken from this excellent book.) Later, Wigglesworth was completely submerged in water by baptists. But please remember that all his first years of ministry and search for God came well before the Rebirth of Via Azusa and the first Pentecostal movement. Smith was hungry for God, and experienced many breakthroughs in new levels of aonization even long before he experienced Baptism in the Holy Spirit and spoke in languages. He was already known for his ministry of healing, and had seen God move in great power, even long before the new Pentecostal experience was mentioned. Unlike us today, who basically begin with Baptism in the Spirit as our first true anction, for Smith this was the culmination of years of god's research and hunger, and thus was much closer to a real Enduement of the New Testament of power from above. Smith Wigglesworth: I was based on bible teaching among the Plymouth brothers. I marched under the salvation army's blood and fire flag, learning to conquer souls in the open air. I received the second blessing of sanctification and a clean heart under the instruction of reader Harris and the Pentecostal League. I claimed the gift of the Holy Ghost by faith while waiting ten days before the Lord. But in the land of Sunder, in 1907, I knelt before God and had a 2-4 act experience... (Pg 119). He described this experience as follows: She (Mrs Boddy, a minister's wife) put her hands to me and then had to leave the room. The fire fell. It was a wonderful moment because I was only there with God. He bathed me in power. consciousness of the cleanliness of the precious blood, and I cried, 'Clean! Clean! Clean! I was full of the joy of the consciousness of cleanliness. I was given a vision in which I saw the Lord Lord Christ. I saw the empty cross, and I saw it exalted to the right hand of God the Father. I could no longer speak English, but I began to praise him in other languages while the Spirit of God gave me expression. I knew then, even though I could receive a notons earlier, that now, at last, I had received the true Baptism in the Holy Spirit as they received on the day of Pentecost. (Pg 44). After this experience, there was no way to stop Smith Wigglesworth. It was a flame for God, and the fire fell wherever it went. He said: I believe that God's ministers are flames of fire. No less than flames. Nothing less than powerful tools, with fiery messages, with hearts full of love. They must have a DEPTH OF CONSECRATION, that God has taken full responsibility for the body, and exists only for him to manifest the Glory of God. A Baptism in death in which the person is purified and energized... He was certainly possessing a audacity, a audacity, a audacity like whose similarity has rarely been seen in Christianity in modern times. It was not uncommon for him to announce in his meetings: Every sermon Christ preached was preceded by a model miracle. We will follow Your example. The first person in this vast audience who stands up, whatever his illness, I will pray for that and God will deliver it. And the first person to stand, even if it was the most deformed cripple, would have healed! On another typical occasion, a man came forward to pray for the pain of stom-ach, and, commanding the pain for going, Wigglesworth punched the man in the stomach so hard that he was sent halfway across the room (fully healed)! This kind of thing has happened more than once. Wigglesworth believed in COMMANDING the sick to be healed in the name of Jesus. His was an aggressive and holy faith. He was a violent man, taking land from the devil by force. Yet he was also a man of great passion, as well as great authority. The devil definitely heard it when Smith Wigglesworth hit town! A number of people were also literally relieved of the deaths under Smith's ministry. Here's her account of an occasion: My friend said, 'She's dead.' He was scared. I've never seen a man so scared in my life. 'What shall I do?' You might think what I did was ab-surd, but I reached the bed and pulled it out. I took her across the room, held her against the wall and held her up, as she was absolutely dead. I looked them in the face and said, 'In the name of Jesus I reproach this death.' From the crown of his head to the plants of his feet his whole body began to tremble. In the name of Jesus, I command you to walk, I said. I repeated: 'In the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus, walk!' (Pg 59). Not only that woman grew from the dead, but was immediately healed even by a terrible disease. Disease. began to testify to people of his experience of death and restoration. It has been recorded that Smith Wigglesworth has collected 23 people from the deaths in total, over the years of his ministry. Once, when Smith was waiting at a bus stop, a woman had trouble getting her little dog home, who had followed her. First he tried to talk softly about it, and asking him to come home. But after a few futile attempts, the woman suddenly stamped her foot and sternly said, 'Go home now!' The dog immediately took off at home, with its tail between its legs. That's how you have to treat the devil, Wigglesworth said, strong enough to make everyone waiting at the bus stop feel. And this was his attitude towards the devil, every waking moment of every day. He literally traveled the world in the 1920s and 1930s, and thousands of people were rescued and healed wherever he went. He often arrived in an almost unknown and unheated place, but within a few days there would be thousands of people flocking to listen, the power of God shown in his encounters was so great. God was truly glorified wherever he went. He was a man who walked and lived in the very presence of God. Yet, in many ways he was a very natural, concrete man. Nor was he afraid to issue the strange stern rebuke. Its purpose was to be in constant, uninterrupted communion with the Father. He had spent hours and days fervently searching for God in his early years, but later. Although his life was a combination of incessant prayer and praise, and every word and work was an act of worship, he was not given long periods of fasting and prayer. (Pg 122). Instead, he had learned the secret of being in continuous and intimate communion with God (sometimes quietly retreating into himself for this purpose), even when he was in a crowd of people. He walked by faith, and was in the Spirit at all times. This was a vital secret to his success. He said: There are two sides to this Baptism: the first is that you own the Spirit; The second is that the Spirit possesses you. (See Jack Hywel-Davies's 'The Life of Smith Wigglesworth'). He counted the cost, and everything was God's. He was a man who truly understood THE AUTHORITY of GOD, and walked there by faith. He said, 'Be full of the Spirit', that is, be CRAMMED with the Spirit, so full that there will be no more room for anything else. That's how he lived. Full of audacity, full of faith and the Holy Spirit. On one occasion, he recalled, I was travelling in Cardiff, South Wales. I had been very much in prayer during the trip. The carriage was full of people I knew I wasn't saved, but since there was so much talking and joking I couldn't in a word for my Master. As the train approached the station, I thought I'd wash my hands... and as I returned-ed to the carriage, a man sprang to his feet and said, 'Sir, it is me of sin,' and fell to his knees there and then. Soon the whole carriage of people shouted the same way. They said, 'Who are you? What are you doing? You all convince us of sin.... (Stanley Frodsham, 'Smith Wiggles- worth, Apostle of faith', p. 80). This episode reminds me a lot of another bold, outspoken and ached evangelist - Charles G. Finney, who had discovered after a possessive Baptism of the Holy Ghost a few years earlier, who even passing comments that he made pierced people to the heart with conviction of sin. He had become one of the greatest re-nursery men of all time. (He died in 1875. Smith Wigglesworth placed great emphasis on purity and holiness, like all true revivalists. He said: You have to make a higher ground every day. You must deny yourself to progress with God. You must reject anything that is not pure and holy. God wants you pure in the heart. He wants you to have an intense desire after holiness... Two things will make you jump out of yourself in today's promises of God. One is purity, and the other is FAITH, which is increasingly allied to PURITY. (Pg 125). This statement contains what is probably the key secret to Smith Wigglesworth's exceptional success in God. And it's obviously a key worth remembering for us too. Another point to note is that Smith was very aware of the dangers of money and carefully protected himself from the possibility of greed coming in. It was really irroproachable in this area too. I am convinced that Smith Wigglesworth was a kind of direct forerunner of the kind of ministries that are about to arise in our day. I believe that the next apostolic ministries, which will be the bearers of a true rebirth in these last days, will join the bold and miraculous faith of a Smith Wigglesworth with the preaching of the deeply condemning repentance of a Charles Finney. And they will move under a powerful anction that combines the best of both these types of ministries. What glorious days will these be! Smith Wigglesworth himself died in 1946 at the ripe age of 87, a flame of God to the end. May he be an example to all of us. JOHN G. LAKE John G. Lake was known as the Apostle of Africa of God. Born in Canada in 1870, his family soon moved to the United States, where he grew up. His ministry of healing and preaching lasted the years 1898 (when he saw his wife immediately healed under the ministry of John Alexander Dowie) until his death in 1935. In 1908, God sent him to Africa, where his ministry of availed miracles led to what has been described as the largest and most powerful missionary movement in all of Africa. As Gordon Lindsay wrote, during that time he spent five years of history in South Africa, engaged in a ministry that in some ways with that of the ancient Church. On his return to America, Lake established a in Spokane, Washington, which led to no less than 100,000 stunning healing miracles over five to six years. He then founded a similar work in Portland, Oregon, which also attracted widespread attention. Like Smith Wigglesworth, John G. Lake had already experienced powerful discoveries, powerful a noasts, and a true call from God for many years before Azusa Street and the Pentecostal Revival. Below is a condensed account of the spiritual hunger and preparation that the Lake was crossed by God, towards the beginning of the most aoted per-iod of his ministry. (Taken from the book John G. Lake - Apostle to Africa, compiled by Gordon Lindsay, and told in the same words as Lake): It was eight years after God revealed Jesus healer to me. I practiced the ministry of healing. During that eight years every answer to prayer, every miraculous touch of God, every response of my soul to the Spirit had created in me a more intense desire for intimacy and conscience of God, as I felt that Jesus' disciples and the primitive church had possessed... Shortly after I entered the ministry of healing, while participating in a service in which the need for baptism of the Spirit was presented, while I knelt down in prayer and reconsecration to God, I was reminded of an anoyment of the Spirit. Waves of Saint Glory passed through my being, and I was raised in a new realm of God's presence and power. After that, responses to prayer were frequent and healing miracles occurred from time to time. I felt at the border of a great spiritual kingdom, but I was not able to fully enter, so my nature was not satisfied with the achievement ... (Pg 16). Hundreds and hundreds of people were healed by God's power in these ten years. But at the end of these ten years, I think I was the most God-hungry man I've ever lived. There was such a hunger for God that when I left my offices in Chicago, and walked down the street, my soul would come out, and I would shout, 'Oh God!' I made people stop and look at me, and I wonder. It was the longing passion of my soul, which demanded God to a greater extent than I knew. But my friends would say, 'Mr. Lake, you have a beautiful Baptism of the Holy Ghost.' Yes, it was nice as far as it went, but it didn't respond to the cry of my heart. I was growing in a broader understanding of God, and the need for my soul. My soul demanded greater entry into God, in His love, presence and power. And then one day an old man went through my office, sat down, and in the next half hour revealed to my soul more knowledge of God than I had ever known before. When he left I said, '... God, if this is what christening of the Holy with languages, I own it. Oh the wonder of God, which was then revealed to my heart!... At last I was conducted put aside certain hours of the day that I have dedicated to God, as moments of meditation and prayer. So a few months passed, until one morning, as I knelt down to pray, the Spirit of the Lord spoke in my spirit and said: Be patient until autumn. My heart rejoiced in this encouragement and I continued my practice of meditation and prayer as before. It became easy for me to break away from the course of my life, so that while my hands and mind were engaged in everyday common affairs, my spirit maintained his attitude of communion with God... I said, 'God, if you baptize me in the Holy Spirit, and you give me the power of God, nothing will be allowed to stand before me and a hundred times obedience.' I prayed for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for nine months, and if a man ever prayed honestly, and sincerely in faith, I did. In the end one day I was ready to throw up my hands and stop. I said, 'Sir, it may be for others, but it's not for me. You just can't give it to me. I didn't blame God. One night a gentleman named Pierce said, 'Mr. Lake, I wished for a long time that she would come, and we would spend a night praying together. We prayed for bap-tismo for a whole year and there is still not one of us baptized. Brother, I don't think you are or, so we can pray for each other. I was so hungry to pray, so I went with all my

purpose is to make us 'BE- LIEVE THE LIE', and in this process this proud deception travels from our minds to our hearts, where it is much more difficult to overthrow. Like a seed, it will grow and begin to manifest itself in our lives, until in the end, if it has not been faced, God is forced to remove us from the ministry in which he called us. In the Bible we are told that we must have the mind of Christ, and that we must bring into captivity every thought of Christ's obedience (2 Cor 10:5). We must be full of His Spirit, so that we have a CONTROLLED MIND, a DIRECT MIND, and a MIND FIXED ON God. I have personally discovered that such roots or strongholds of pride, or anything else in our lives, can be dealt with very effectively by renouncing them, from the very depths of our hearts and souls, in the name of Jesus, and alienating them from ourselves as hated things. (This also applies to bad habits and any other form of stronghold.) Because the weapons of our war are not carnal, but powerful through God to take down strongholds (2 Cor 10:4). We must not let the devil dominate any area of our lives in this way. Of course, those involved in powerful ministries are particularly susceptible to the pride that comes in, because of the amazing things they see happening every day in their ministries, and the temptation to start taking some of the glory for themselves, or to start thinking that they are something special - forgetting that every gift they have is god's. Such pride can be incredibly subtle, and the devil delights in putting such ministries under as much pressure as possible. However, it is important to remember that God will not allow us to be tempted more than we can bear. (1 Cor 10:13). It is significant to note that William Branham was apparently still a truly humble man in many ways until the time of his death, yet the devil managed to introduce subtle pride into his mind and heart in a couple of crucial areas. He was supposed to become a teacher when this was obviously not his calling, and eventually came to believe inflated Elia-type revelations about himself and his special position, supporting them at the Followers. As the Apostle Paul wrote, we must not think of ourselves any more than we should think (Romans 12:3). About the fall of Lucifer, Lucifer, said: Your heart was raised because of your beauty; you have corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendour. (Ez 28:17). It is also important to remember that it is often when we have won our greatest victories in God, that we are more susceptible to enemy attacks. As Paul wrote, let anyone who thinks they're standing doesn't take care of him so as not to fall. (1 Cor 10:12). We see this particularly in the life of John Alexander Dowie. It was when he had won in a period of comparative success and prosperity in his ministry that he apparently loosened his guard, and was tricked into BELIEVING THE LIE that the devil was trying to sell him. It is clear from the scriptures that in the last few days there will be ministries that will go forward in the spirit and power of Elijah. However, as Gordon Lindsay wrote in his biography of Dowie, IF IT HAD BEEN ELIJAH HIMSELF, WHAT AN UNFORTUNATE MISTAKE IT WAS MADE, IN PROCLAIMING HIMSELF AS SUCH! John the Baptist was pleased to declare himself a voice that wept in the desert. When they asked John if it was Elijah, he said it wasn't. Yet Christ later said that he was! (Matthew 11:14) Jesus praised John's humility, saying, 'It must increase, but I must diminish', and declared that no one born of women was greater than him. (G. Lindsay, 'John Alexander Dowie', pg 190). It is often when making such statements that you are a last-day apostle or an Elijah, that things start to go off the rails. The devil's first priority is to lead us to BELIEVE A LIE (usually an inflated or proud view of ourselves, or some excuse for which a certain sin is OK for me) or even publicly dazzle an EXAGGERATED TRUTH, and then ACT ON IT. After that, as the deception grows and our blindness in that area deepens, surely only disaster can result. However, one of the alarming things about such deception is that THE GIFTS, POWER, AND CALL OF GOD that already operate in their ministry until then usually continue to operate just as powerfully, often to the death. Because God's gifts and call are without repentance (Rom. 11:29). In other words, God usually does not take away such gifts, even if a ministry falls into deception. And so, they will continue to exercise that power, often thinking that everything is fine and ignoring all the warnings, until it is too late. A fatal mistake, but so common. And the story is littered with the shattered remains of such ministries, who refused to keep God's writing on the wall in mind until it was too late. FINANCE You'll notice that with both Dowie and Branham, financial mis judgments have certainly helped precipitate their downfall. With Dowie, his problem was getting too in the financial relations and care of this world (almost certainly as a result of his revelation Elijah the Restorer). And there can be no doubt that God will take care of anyone who uses his aon and his gifts as a means for wealth and luxury life. As G.H. Montgomery wrote of the decline of the Rebirth of Healing, and of a number of evangelists at that time: Men who preach the mild and low Nazarene to a lost and dying world, yet live in sumptuous houses built on money contributed by god's poor, cannot call themselves followers of Jesus. With Branham, it was the opposite problem, as he obviously couldn't worry less about his finances, and perhaps assumed that God would take care of it - I don't need to organize or pay attention to anything. Again, a fatal form of presumption. I have no doubt that God quietly warned Branham many times about his finances and the lack of accounting or basic organization, but in the end it took a disaster to sit him down and take note of - and at that point it was too late, and his ministry was deeply mired in a financial well from which he never really recovered. In recent years I have met a number of men and women of God who are also anti-organization to the point that if they were in a minis-try revival, they could easily suffer the same financial fate as Branham's. Their theory is that essentially, God will do everything, and many of them see any form of organization almost as a sin. But my question is this: if God does not want human beings to be involved in such a ministry-related organization, then why did he invent the gifts of HELPERS and ADMINIST-RATORS? (1 Cor 12:28, RSV. King James refers to these as aid and governments, and are found in every translation in the list of spiritual gifts for the church). It is also important to remember that the ancient Church appointed seven men to administer the funds raised by the apostles for use among the poor, etc. (Acts 6:1-7). Of course, this organisation must not be too similar to today's churches, but it must be streamlined, efficient and, above all, transparent, open and above the table. The last thing we need is myotic financial exchanges that rebuke the people of God. The first Salvation Army, which was a true revival movement for at least its first 40 years, had just such an operation. Of course, the entire movement was modelled on a mobilized army, with a central command post in London (from where General William Booth ruled with an iron rod) and supply lines that are located in every corner of the world. Like the ancient church, these people took care of the poor, as well as the children of God, and thousands of people were dressed, fed and housed (as well as thousands more saved) around the world. The first Salvation Army was one of the longest-lived aoted rebirth the church has ever seen, and there can be no doubt that this has been greatly aided by the effectiveness and divinity of their organization. Organization, literally followed them wherever they went. It is therefore very clear, from this and other examples, that THE ORGANIZATION MUST NOT BE OUR ENEMY. In fact, under God, he can become one of our most useful friends. MARRIAGE We have already mentioned how in dowie's last years, when he desperately needed some balanced spiritual contribution in his life from people close to him, it seems that his wife was of little help (in fact, probably on the contrary). This shows how important a strong marriage and God is for God's servants, especially for those who are continually bombarded by the devil because their ministry against him is so effective. Those who are married and underestimate the importance of their marriage to their ministry are extremely reckless. The devil will be looking for any crack in their armor, and if there are weaknesses in their marriage, he will make the most of them. Interestingly, in an investigation into why many divorced women in the United States left their husbands, most of them responded, and it was because of NEGLIGENCE. Their husbands had taken so much care of their work, etc., that they had neglected their wives. And unfortunately, this also applies to many Christian ministries. A tragic and fatal situation. More than ever I believe that in these Last Days God wants to occupy ministries in which there is a deep love and an obvious spiritual union between husband and wife. And that gives those of us who are married the added benefit of having someone looking over our shoulders. Remember, Paul wrote about qualifications for seniority or leadership in the church, that a man must be the husband of a wife... They must manage their family well, keeping their children submissive and respectful in every way, because if a man does not know how to manage his family, how can he take care of the church of God? (1 Tim 3:2-5). Our family life is much more important to God than many of us realize, and gives a real vision of whether or not we are really fit to be in the ministry. DELUDED INTO SIN As stated above, spiritual pride was the main cause of the fall of many ministries. The fatal presumption that everything must be fine (despite any sin or deception in which they are involved) just because the anction is still there, and miracles are still happening, is oh-so-common. And it is clearly this subtle pride that gives the devil a legal door through which he can begin to deceive them in other areas as well. I would be amazed by the apology that such deceived individuals exo their way into why a certain shame is OK for them, although it's certainly not OK for anyone else. The devil managed to delude and defeat a number of ministries involved in the American Healing Revival. He got to some of them with love of ease and comfort, others through selfish ambition and envy, and some even got drunk. Yet many of them were still performing mir-acles until the end. But in the end, they lost everything. Speaking about the decline of the Rebirth of Healing, Gordon Lindsay observed that many ministers had stopped fasting and waiting before God. He said many of the ministries had declined, largely due to a lack of humility and a tendency to self-exaltation. He was reportedly disgusted by the growing emphasis on money. Lindsay later concluded that even at the height of the rebirth many of the evangelists had not prayed, had not touched God for their ministry, had just laid out their banner. (D. Harrell Jr, 'ALL things are possible', pg 139). One of the most common baits of the devil throughout history, of course, has been sexual sin (sometimes of a perverse nature, but usually simple adultery). Remember that the devil will literally be throwing everything at such ministries (although usually in a masked or subtle way). They're hurting him, and he's not going to stand by and watch. He's going to look for and snooty that crack in their armor. That is why in the past God has often spent years training and preparing such ministries in the dark, before giving them their anulation and commission. He had to test them - to see if they could survive enemy attacks, and temptations of pride, etc. He must have felt confident that he could entrust them with His aonion. And even then, he knew some of them would let him down. In his book Set the Trumpet to thy Mouth, David Wilkerson discovered some very interesting facts about why pastors and other ministries in America were falling into adultery. A poll had been done, and it became obvious what the devil's number one strategy was. In the vast majority of cases, these men had developed a close spiritual relationship with a woman other than his wife, and this is what they ended up committing adultery with. They often prayed or discussed the Bible with this spiritual woman, until they eventually became intimate and intimate, and shared with her things they were supposed to share with their wife. How spiritual it was! It wouldn't be wonderful to marry a woman like this! (Not that they ever tried to share with their wife like this.) What a subtle and cunning dec-emption. And Satan has had great success in taking out many promising ministries just through this technique. Then there is the old man, I am allowed more than one wife at a time deception. (Despite what the Bible says in 1Tim 3:2, etc.). As I said before, it's amazing what the devil can make you believe human beings at times. Almost every deception plays on secret desires or strongholds deep in us. Some of us want that deception is true. That is why we must be so sincere and brutally honest with ourselves in giving up such deceptions and strongholds, if we ever be truly free of them. ('Self-pity' is another subtle but deadly - the real cause of a lot of depression. Many people love to have blues or feel sorry for themselves, and this can be a more debilitating stronghold in life. Don't make a pet of it - GIVE UP!) Another thing I would like to mention briefly is the danger of ENVY entering its ministry. This too can be a very subtle but immensely destructive evil. (The Pharisees had Jesus killed because of envy, after all - M. 15:10.) If you ever feel like attacking or murmuring at a leader who works in more power or is better known than you, carefully check your motivations to see that selfish envy or ambition is not one of the causes of your antagonism. Satiereist amazed by the number of team ministries, etc., that have been destroyed by this kind of leadership envy (whether it comes from the application or worse - from within the group). Who knows what prompted Judas Iscariota to betray Jesus? (Remembering that Judas was one of the twelve hand-picked disciples.) For some time I have been wondering whether the Antichrist that will rise at the end of the era can be one of God's true apostles of end-of-time - gone off the road. Doesn't the Bible call him the son of perdition, just like Judas? And it will not move in powerful signs, wonders and miracles, just like Judas? A scary thought! (However, the people of God will discern the truth when the time comes.) The pattern of the devil's fall seemed to be: Spiritual Pride, Envy (and Selfish Ambition), then Rebellion. And, of course, this same pattern is constantly found even among fallen human beings (even Christian ones, unfortunately). For the true ministries of God, the secret to surviving the next period of the Last Days is basically the same as it ever was. They must have a deep hatred for sin, a true fear of God, a goinling honesty with themselves and a heart after the very heart of God - just as His servant David did. Only then can they really be sure of lasting to the end. That is why God spent so much time preparing and breaking these ministries, before sending them to lead His people out of slavery and in His glorious light once again. GOD NEEDS LEADERS! Although I have no doubt that God's coming move will be even more incredible than the great Rebirth of Healing, and that the outpouring of His Spirit will be much greater than anything ever seen before, I believe that many of the same dangers and principles will apply, just as always done. We must learn our lesson from history, or we must repeat them. One thing I would like to emphasize is that, just like any previous move by God, this will need leaders aoted and raised by God, to advance and establish His Rebirth. Some people believe in a kind of rebirth without leaders, where God does everything and human guidance is almost obselete. But from everything God has said about the move to come, I should be frank and say these people are under no illusions. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN, AND THERE WILL NEVER BE A REFORM-REBIRTH WITHOUT LEADERS. Tell me this: Would there ever have been a Revival of the Book of Acts without aoted apostles to guide him? And would the Jews have fled Egypt without a aoted Moses to guide them? Would they ever have taken the promised land without a Joshua? And could they have defeated the Philistins without a aoted David or a Gideon? The answer is: NO - NEVER! God has always been, and still is, totally committed to using humanity as his instruments and leader of the Reformation and Rebirth in the earth. In fact, it would be fair to say that for God not to use such human leadership, it would go against the whole basic nature of its relations with humanity. As with any Reform-Rebirth, God simply has to have His leaders. I can well understand why some Christians today have become disillusioned and disenchanting with much of the current ecclesiastical leadership. But I can't understand why they want to support the whole concept of leadership altogether. The fact is that God may very well want to use them as leaders in the next Rebirth. But I found that some of them hate the idea of leadership and authority so much that it's doubtful they would ever call God. (I must ask- Couldn't it just be a form of subtle Rebellion? What is the real motivation behind such a dislike for god's authority?) I have been concerned about this whole thing for several years. It is my being- lief (sustained by much that God has said all over the world) that he is secretly preparing a company of future revival leaders for many years (hidden, as always) - the Joshuas and Davids who will suddenly rise in god's perfect timing to lead His people to rebirth. If some of these men and women don't think about God's call, then we're in trouble, surely? But on the other hand, perhaps this is just another example of the truth of the old saying: Many are called, but few are chosen? (I urge you to pray and think about these things.) What God has told me clearly is:- NO LEADER - NO REBIRTH. And he also said that WHEN THE NEW APOSTLES RISE, REBIRTH WILL BEGIN. Just like the ancient church, it will be the new apostles who will bring the true rebirth that anges in these Last Days, and it will be when they arise that the Rebirth will really begin. (This was the case with every true Reform-Rebirth.) These will be men of enormous god authority Power. They will certainly not abuse this authority, but neither will they be afraid to reproach, reproach and exhort where necessary. And these powerful ministries, along with the many prophets and evangelists that are about to arise, will go on under a powerful anction - a terrible army, with banners - destroying the devil's works in the name of Jesus. Many of these leaders may seem rather rough with an outward appearance (just like the former fishermen and tax collectors of the Book of Acts), but they will walk in total purity of the heart before God. And I also believe that while they may not be apostles as such, God will use CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS tremendously even in the incoming rebirth (often in a way that can also shame adults). What glorious days these will be. SMITH WIGGLESWORTH'S VISION The following account is of a particularly powerful vision given to Smith Wigglesworth during the early part of World War II, when he was visited by a young Lester Sumrall (the well-known evangelist for the liberation of healing and founder of the charity Feed the Hungry). This account of Wigglesworth's vision comes from pg 168-169 of Lester Sumrall's 1995 book, 'Pioneers of faith': ... Closing his eyes again, he said: I see the greatest rebirth in the history of mankind arriving on planet Earth, perhaps like never before. And I see all forms of disease healed. I see whole hospitals emptied with no one there. Doctors are also running through the streets screaming. He told me that there would be unspeakable numbers of countless multi- tude that would be saved. No man will say 'many, many', because no one will be able to count those who come from Jesus. No disease will be able to stand before the people of God... It will be a world situation, not a local one, he said, a worldwide boost of God's power and God's anization on humanity. Then he opened his eyes and looked at me and said, 'I won't see him, but you'll see him. The Lord says that I must go to my reward, but that you will see the bridge works that He will make on earth in the last days. ... The idea that I would see this rebirth was almost overwhelming. And over the last decade or so, I think we've seen this rebirth begin to sweep the earth. We've seen amazing moves by God in Africa... Recently, I was in China and met the underground church. I am told that there are at least forty-five million complete evangelical Christians in China. I discovered a depth of prayer and integrity there that I didn't hear anywhere else in the world... So I think we're seeing Wiggles' prophecy - worth is beginning to be fulfilled. We're seeing the early stages of it. The interesting thing (in light of the prophecy of that would have seen at least the beginning of this end-of-period revival) is that Lester Sumrall died on April 28, 1996. I find it disturbing, god emphasized the significance of 1996 and also of 1997. You can re-a member of William Branham's prophecy that I mentioned in another article, in which he prophesied that the church would go into a wild period for forty years. As I said, this prophecy was given in Chicago on January 16, 1956 -- at the end of the Healing Revival. And, of course, forty years after 1956 it takes us to 1996. Interesting, right? (Please see my article Signs in the Skies to learn more about all this. God really seems to indicate the meaning of these two years). Who knows what the near future might bring? Another thing I would like to mention is that a well-known international preacher prophesied this year that two important Christian leaders must die before the great rebirth comes. This is very well in line with what God has shown myself and others, about the main leaders of the Old Guard who must transmit before God's new leadership can really emerge to lead His church to reformation and rebirth. (This is an important principle in God's economy, as seen in David's life, etc.). I'm convinced that if a leader has dominated the era we've seen in church for the last fifty years or so, it's Billy Graham. Much could be said about this, but suffice it to say that I would not be surprised to see God take him home in the near future, to give access to His new leadership - which will dominate the new era in the church. (Billy Graham has been ill for some time, after all.) Space forbids any further discussion of all this, but remembers to seek the fulfillment of the above prophecies. I am convinced that we now live on the brink of the most important days in the history of the Church. The glory of God is about to come down. And the people of God will no longer be a laughing stock, both of men and of devils. It is clear that the time is about to come soon when the mighty men and women of God's value must return to disprove, as in the days of the old. I believe that God is once again looking for men and women in our day who will risk everything for Him, who have died for sin and for themselves, who cannot bear a providential or fleshy clamour, and who wish to serve God only with a purity of spirit rather than an excess of power of the soul. Surely the words of the Guardian Nee are tragically true, not only of many Christians today, but unfortunately also of many leaders: The corrupt old man in the believer is dead but his soul remains the power behind his walk. On the one hand the sinful nature has been drastically touched but on the other hand self-life still persists and therefore cannot escape being soulful ... Depending on the life of the soul to realize the desire of the spirit is to use natural (or human) force to supernatural (or divine) goodness. This is simply trying to satisfy God's request with Few are those who are honestly willing to acknowledge their weakness and inability and to fully lean on God. Who will confess his futility if he is not humiliated by God's grace? The man is proud of his skill... He does not understand that, however good the human perspectives, his efforts may seem, they can never please God... He fails miserably to be spiritual and continues to remain in the soul. (Guardian Nee, 'The Spiritual Man', Vol.1-3). It is in the arid desert of rupture and despair that God chooses to face such soulful self-power in His servants. And it is only when this 'self' has been completely put to the sword that God can entrust His miraculous power to these servants. Only when they want nothing but His glory can he grant them the weapons of a powerful war. As one prophecy that was given several years ago in America said: I have used many swords in past years, and some were made of polluted metals. I used them because they were the only weapons at my disposal. But for this last Great Rebirth, I must have purest metal swords that have gone through the hottest fires so that they do not break in My Hand ... I am convinced that our Almighty God is now looking for men and women to whom He can entrust such an aonation. He is looking for a people who do not really love their lives to the death, who know the dang-ers but who are willing to risk everyone (even in light of the failure of some in the past), to see God glorified and His standard raised in the earth in our day. We are still surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses - men and women who fought a glorious struggle and ran an unid race. And God now seeks men and women of this same ik, who are hungry and thirsty for Him, who go on in the profound things of God, and who have willingly paid the price and spent a lot of time alone with Him. Like Elisha, who would not let Elijah go until he received a double part of that great prophet's aon, he never let her go of God until he blesses them with a similar fineuement. Charles Finney said: PRAY MORE for the Holy Spirit of God, and FIGHT MORE with God for His blessing ... If you have the Holy Spirit of God, you must expect to feel great anguish in the face of the condition of the Church and of the world. It is only through such fervent prayer, agonizing and wrestling that we can break through in these greatest kingdoms in God. And then, how Satan will oppose us! (And most likely church leaders as well.) As the Apostle Paul wrote: Because we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of OUR PROBLEMS that have come to Asia: that we have been BURDENED BEYOND MEASURE, ABOVE FORCE, BECAUSE EVEN LIFE. (2 Cor 1:8). As David, king of Israel, declared, my soul thirsts for God, for the living God (Ps 42:2). And it was clearly the Apostle the Apostle great de-sire: So that I may KNOW HIM (JESUS), and the power of His Resurrection, and the communion of His sufferings, made conformable to His death (Philip 3:10). Once again, Charles Finney declared: Rebirth comes from heaven when heroic souls enter the conflict determined to win or die... The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the VIOLENT TAKE IT BY FORCE.' A few years ago, God shared with me the secret of joining God's new move. It's just this: WHO DARES WINS. As I said before, I believe that God is currently searching for such men and women, tried as by fire, who will lead His people into the next great war. AND AUDACITY will be one of the most important qualifications. Tell me, man, you're going to be one of these?... But TARRY YOU in the city of Jerusalem, until you are ENDUED WITH POWER FROM ABOVE (Lk 24:49). This article Copyright (c) Andrew Strom, 1996. (Feel free to photocopy). (Grateful recognition to Larry Magnello of the United States for a good part of the concept and some of the research that has been the subject of this article.) Used for Home authorization

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