

Fresh Shift

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Sermon Synopsis

In this episode of *World Impact*, Dr. Billy Wilson, President of Oral Roberts University, teaches on the expectation of a new wave of revival that is emerging in the 2020s. He traces the historic moves of the Holy Spirit, beginning with the Azusa Street Revival and continuing through charismatic renewal and the growth of independent congregations. These movements, he explains, have each carried distinctive marks of God's Spirit, and now a fresh "fourth wave" is beginning—one characterized by unity among believers and a deeper manifestation of the Holy Spirit's power. At its heart, this message is a call for individuals and churches to prepare themselves through openness and humility for the Spirit's work in this generation.

Dr. Wilson grounds this vision in biblical precedent, pointing to the monumental shift from the Old Testament to the New Testament. Figures such as Zachariah and Mary were invited into God's unfolding plan through divine encounters that required faith and receptivity. Zachariah's temporary muteness illustrates the danger of resisting God's new season, while his restored speech shows the release that comes when we align with God's purposes. Dr. Wilson stresses that fresh moves of God often require leaving behind old patterns and becoming willing to embrace new expressions of His Spirit.

Repentance, he emphasizes, is the essential preparation for revival. Drawing on John the Baptist's message and Peter's preaching in Acts, Dr. Wilson explains that repentance is not simply regret but a transformation of mind and life—what Scripture calls *metanoia*. He quotes revivalist Frank Bartleman, who observed that the depth of repentance determines the depth of revival. In this light, Dr. Wilson urges believers to examine their lives for anything that might hinder God's work—such as bitterness, pride, or unbelief—and to turn fully toward Him in readiness for renewal.

The global dimension of this movement is also highlighted. With insights from Dr. Todd Johnson, the program underscores the rapid growth of Christianity in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, regions that are now shaping the future of Spirit-filled faith. Dr. Wilson reminds viewers that genuine revival often takes forms that may be unfamiliar, and so the Church is called to be explorers of the Spirit—open to what God is doing in diverse cultures and settings. At the center of every true move, however, is a clearer revelation of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Dr. Wilson closes with a heartfelt invitation for believers today to prepare themselves with unity, repentance, and openness, just as those at the dawn of Christ's ministry did. He affirms that God is moving in this generation with the power to refresh individuals, renew the Church, and transform the world. The message serves as both encouragement and challenge, calling the Church to be ready participants in a global shift of the Spirit and to seek a renewed revelation of Jesus in their lives.

Scripture Verses

[Zechariah 2:13](#)

Be still before the LORD, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

[Acts 3:19](#)

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

[Matthew 3:1-2](#)

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

[John 1:29](#)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'

Quotes

- "God is on the move and he wants to move in your life and in my life." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "Every time God moves and shifts things dramatically, he does new things. You're gonna say, 'I've never seen this before.'" - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "When God is shifting things, there are fresh visitations from heaven." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "We must open up to what God is doing in a new generation if we're going to have a voice with them." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "Every true supernatural shift from heaven is to help us see Jesus in a fresh and new revelation-type way." - Dr. Billy Wilson

Bible Study

Objectives

- Understand the concept of divine shifts and movements in the Spirit as seen in biblical history.
- Recognize the significance of fresh visitations, openness, repentance, and Spirit-driven renewal in our own lives.
- Explore the role of a fresh revelation of Jesus Christ as the foundation of spiritual revival.
- Apply lessons from the past revivals and spiritual shifts to the current generation's walk with God.

Reading and Reflections

- Zechariah 2:13 - We enter a time of silence and awe before God's holy movement.
- Acts 3:19 - Repentance leads to forgiveness and refreshing from the Lord.
- Matthew 3:1-3 - John the Baptist's call for repentance signaling a supernatural shift.
- John 1:29 - The fresh revelation of Jesus as the Lamb of God takes central stage.
- Luke 1:5-25 - The visitation of Angel Gabriel to Zechariah revealing a new shift.

Key Observations

- God's shifts are often preceded by fresh divine visitations that awaken hearts and set new directions.
- Openness to new ways and new generations is essential to receive God's fresh move and restoration of voice.
- True revival and spiritual refreshment require deep repentance and a change of mind (metanoia).
- Historical revivals consistently show a fresh work of the Holy Spirit accompanied by unprecedented manifestations.
- Every divine shift points us back to Jesus Christ—to see Him in new and life-transforming ways.

Personal Reflections

- Am I open to God visiting me in new ways, even beyond my past experiences?
- In what areas of my life do I need fresh repentance to experience God's refreshing?
- Do I resist or embrace the new generation and the fresh moves of the Spirit among them?
- How can I seek a renewed, deeper revelation of Jesus to fuel my daily walk and ministry?
- Am I willing to be a vessel for God's shift—ready to be moved and used in unprecedented ways?

Lessons for Daily Life

- Be attentive and expectant for fresh visitations from God; He still speaks and acts today.
- Cultivate a heart of openness, rejecting stagnation and embracing God's new directions and generations.
- Regularly practice sincere repentance to keep your spirit responsive and refreshed.
- Stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and be willing to explore new ways God may be working.
- Anchor every shift and movement in a deeper understanding and love for Jesus Christ.

Practical Applications

- Begin each day asking God for a fresh visitation and openness to His new work in your life.
- Identify any areas of bitterness, anger, or resistance to change and confess them before God.
- Pray for and encourage a younger or different generation within your church or community.
- Engage with historical Spirit-empowered movements through reading and testimonies to be inspired.
- Share your testimony or prayer needs on platforms like WorldImpact.tv and support others in their spiritual shifts.

Challenges for the Week

- Spend intentional time seeking a fresh revelation of Jesus daily through prayer and Scripture.
- Practice humility by asking God to reveal areas needing repentance and yield to His correction.
- Reach out to someone from a different generation or background to foster unity and openness.
- Journal any new insights or Divine encounters you experience and how they shift your perspective.
- Commit to praying for the global Spirit-empowered movement and the spread of revival fires worldwide.

Further Study

- Study the life and ministry of John the Baptist (Matthew 3; Luke 1) for insights on preparing for a shift.
- Examine the Azusa Street Revival history and Frank Bartleman's writings on repentance and revival.
- Read Acts chapters 1-4 to understand early church shifts under the Holy Spirit's power.

- Explore John 1 to meditate on fresh revelations of Christ's identity and mission.
- Research modern-day Spirit-empowered movements and their testimonies through resources at Oral Roberts University.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the immovable truth that You are always on the move, shifting and shaking the earth for Your glory. Lord, awaken our hearts with fresh visitations from heaven. Give us courage to open our spirits to all that You want to do in this new season. We confess any hardness, any bitterness, or resistance, and we repent with deep humility and surrender. Holy Spirit, breathe new life, power, and revelation into us, that we might boldly declare Jesus—the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world—and manifest His love like never before. Align us with Your purposes, Father, that we may be vessels of Your supernatural shift in this generation. In the mighty and matchless name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.

Daily Devotionals

Day 1

Scripture Verse

Zechariah 2:13 (NIV): "Be still before the LORD, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling."

Reflection

As believers, we live amidst a world that often seems chaotic and out of control. Yet in the midst of this turmoil, God is never dormant—He is actively moving, shifting the spiritual tides, and bringing forth new awakenings. Zechariah calls us to a posture of stillness and reverence, an intentional silence before the LORD, recognizing that He Himself is stirring and rising from His sacred place to intervene. Imagine standing on the edge of early morning, when the sun is just beginning to pierce the horizon after a long, dark night. The anticipation in the air is palpable; the earth itself seems to hold its breath for the coming light. This is the spiritual season we are entering. The stirring of God's Spirit is tangible, and He desires to bring a fresh shift in your personal life, your heart, and the wider church. Dr. Billy Wilson's message reminds us that we stand on the threshold of what might be one of the greatest revivals in Christian history. The past waves of the Holy Spirit—from Azusa Street to the charismatic movement and the independent Spirit-empowered churches—demonstrate God's pattern of renewing His people. Now, a fourth wave is rising, marked especially by Christian unity and a unity born out of love for Jesus. This call to be still before the LORD is not passivity but alertness. It's an invitation to shift our spiritual posture from busyness to focused expectancy. Are you sensing in your spirit that God wants to visit you anew? Much like Zachariah in the temple, when God interrupts the ordinary with a fresh angelic visitation, your life is poised on the brink of change. Maybe the moment has come to stop striving in your own strength and open your heart wide—ready to receive a new move of the Holy Spirit. In real life, consider someone like a weary teacher during a chaotic school year, or a parent overwhelmed by circumstances. When they pause and choose to be still before God, they become aware of His presence and power, often in surprising ways. The Lord is not distant but near; He desires to rouse Himself on your behalf and bring shifts that seem impossible to man but are effortless for God. As we prepare our hearts for this shift, let us embrace God's invitation into stillness, trusting that He is on the move and that new heights in our spiritual journey are about to be unfolded.

Prayer

Lord, help me to be still before You today. Awaken my heart to Your presence and prepare me for the fresh move of Your Spirit. I open myself to the shifts You want to bring in my life. Amen.

Day 2

Scripture Verse

Acts 3:19 (NIV): "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."

Reflection

The movement of God's Spirit ushers in times of refreshing—but these come only when we embrace repentance. Peter's words in Acts 3 are a clarion call for us to confront our hearts honestly, turning away from areas that hinder intimacy with God and rob us of His refreshing. Repentance, or *metanoia* in Greek, is more than mere regret. It is a profound change of mind and heart, a conscious turning away from sin and toward the Father. In the fast-paced rhythm of life today, it is tempting to skate over this deep spiritual discipline. Yet, as the history of revivals reveals, deep repentance is the fertile soil from which the Spirit's refreshing springs forth. Consider the story of Zachariah, who at first doubted God's message but then embraced the shift God was ushering in by naming his son John as instructed. His repentance—a movement from doubt to belief—restored his voice and opened the way for a new generation. Sometimes God requires us to relinquish our old ways of thinking, our skepticism, or our comfort zones before He can pour out renewal. Think of a friend who has walked through burnout, resentment, or bitterness. Only when they chose to repent—letting go of pride or hurt to fully surrender to God—did they experience a turnaround and refreshing that changed the course of their life and ministry. This willingness to repent creates a spiritual openness without which revival cannot break forth. In our personal lives, what shadows need to be cast away so God can refresh your soul? Is there bitterness, anger, or hidden sin that needs surrender? Today, embrace Peter's challenge with courage. Begin the journey of repentance so that the refreshing showers of the Holy Spirit can fall afresh and revive your spirit, your family, your church, and your community. This repentance is not a heavy burden but a door leading to newness of life. It's the pathway God uses to shift us from old paradigms to new realms of blessing and power.

Prayer

Father, grant me the courage to repent and turn fully to You. Wash me clean so I can receive Your refreshing. Renew my heart and lead me into the newness of life through Your Spirit. Amen.

Day 3

Scripture Verse

John 1:29 (NIV): "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"

Reflection

Every true shift from heaven carries with it a fresh revelation of Jesus Christ. John the Baptist's exclamation in John 1:29 points to the heart of all revival and transformation: a renewed, powerful encounter with Jesus, the Lamb of God. When God shifts the spiritual seasons, people don't just notice new events—they come to see Jesus more clearly, more intimately, and more compellingly. The Welsh Revival, which ignited in prayer meetings and testimonies of love for Jesus, was ultimately a reawakening to who Christ is. It stirred hearts to move beyond the routine of religion into the life-giving reality of Jesus. Imagine meeting someone in your life who suddenly makes Jesus come alive for you in a fresh way—a youth leader whose passion is contagious, a personal testimony that opens your eyes, or a worship moment that breaks through barriers of numbness. These are windows into the shift God is bringing. This fresh revelation is not just head knowledge; it is a heart encounter that compels change, fuels perseverance, and ignites hope. Maybe you are feeling distant, going through the motions but not fully engaged. Today, God is calling you to lift your gaze to Jesus anew. He invites you to experience the Lamb who takes away your sin, your shame, your past failures. He wants you to see Him as the source of your new life and power. In your daily life—whether at work, at home, or in the quiet moments—you can ask God for this fresh revelation. It may come through Scripture, worship, or the gentle whisper of the Holy Spirit. This is the heart of the shift that will carry you forward, joining a great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us, captivated by Jesus. Be encouraged, dear believer, that the same Jesus who walked the dusty roads of first-century Palestine is ready to reveal Himself anew to you today, to shift your life, your ministry, your faith into a vibrant new season.

Prayer

Jesus, I look to You as the Lamb of God who takes away my sin. Reveal Yourself to me in new ways. Ignite my heart with fresh love and lead me into the fullness of life only You can give. Amen.

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