

Celebration of 40 Years of Revival

by Erlo Stegen

Erlo Stegen shares his personal experiences and insights on the importance of faith, obedience, and spiritual renewal in the face of adversity and the call to revival and spiritual transformation.

Duration: 1:11:28

Scripture: Matthew 28:19, Romans 1:14, Revelation 3:16

Topics: "Revival History"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker shares his personal experiences and observations of the state of Christianity over the past 40 years. He expresses his disappointment in seeing people initially accepting Christ but quickly losing their faith. He emphasizes the importance of being under the control of the Holy Spirit and following the teachings of Jesus. The speaker also criticizes Christian youth who prioritize worldly things over the word of God and warns that those who do not keep God's word will not go to heaven.

Transcript

I greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank God with all my heart that I can be here in your midst and that we can be here to uplift his name. The devil was really on the attack after me these days.

Just these past days, a doctor referred me to a specialist and they said I need to go to hospital for tests to see whether I didn't have cancer in my bones. They did thorough tests from head to toe, but the results were good. They say they found nothing.

But the day before yesterday, I was in hospital again. And there they got me to swallow a camera to check whether there wasn't a problem inside somewhere in the intestines. But there again they found nothing.

Now my wife had to go through that experience a few times when she was so ill and I thought well now I've got a chance to know what she went through and I thought well Lord I would quite like to see what it's like and actually see what they see inside when they send the camera down, but Lord just help me that it's not too painful. So the nurse arrived and told me what the procedure would be like. And Dr. Albi was also there and I said well he's there to hold my hand.

And then they got the camera and everything ready and then I fell into a deep sleep and I woke up when everything was over so I missed out on everything. I was so disappointed because I wanted to see what it actually looks like. I didn't see a camera, I didn't see my inside, I didn't see a thing.

I fell asleep. That's a gift, one of the gifts I've got, I can sleep. Now they told me that I wouldn't actually fall asleep, I would be awake throughout the procedure, but I was very disappointed when I slept.

I was fast asleep throughout. Now when I was still young, I was about 13 years old. Now just by the way, we Stegans, we grow up quite fast physically.

We grow up in springtime, not in the winter. Not in autumn, in spring. With 13 years I was as big as what I am now.

We had an elderly lady at that time we called Majan and she always said, well you've grown up far too fast. You won't get old, you'll die at a young age because you grew up too fast. But now I see I did grow to this age and I see many younger people than I passing away.

And here I still am. The truth of the matter is that our life, our time is in God's hands. It's now for a number of weeks that Neal Vitthoft is so-to-say on his deathbed.

My cousin's son, he was a very healthy young man and as a boy always very fit, good at athletics, at sports. Very healthy young man, but he fell ill very suddenly. And we've been, since he's fallen so ill just a few weeks ago, we've been in contact all the time.

Even if I can't visit him during the day, we're in contact by telephone. So we're united in spirit all the time that we can pray. And we pray and say, Lord, if it's your will, please heal him.

But these days, I think it was the day before yesterday, I said to Neal, I must tell you the truth, for a believer, for a Christian who's made peace with God, to a person who is in right standing with God, death is thousands of times better and greater than the healing miracle in a life like yours. We must never forget that. Death is the greatest miracle that can happen to me.

You may count any miracle, mention any miracle. The day I die, being rightly related to God, it's thousands of times a greater miracle than being healed physically. Then I'll be with my Lord.

I'll be with him. That makes the person envious where he wants to die. But just because of the Lord's work and wanting to be faithful to God, we are happy if we are still here.

So we should not be sad when we die as God's children. Because that is the thousands of times more wonderful, greater, more beautiful than a physical wound of death in this world. So we should not be sad when we die as God's children.

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I'd like to share with you some things that happened which I've never shared before. But things which God has done since he poured out his spirit 40 years ago. I've been silent about certain things because the Lord has instructed us not to throw the pearl to the swine because they will trample upon those pearls and then they'll pull you to pieces.

And if there are dangerous people in this world, it's people that are called Christians. If they are not under the control of the Holy Spirit, that's where the demons like to stay. They're neither hot nor cold, they're lukewarm and the Lord says, I will spew you out.

I was still young. I must have been around about 14 or 15. My father was a farmer, but he also had some trading stores, some supermarkets.

Some of them were built at the edge of a cliff or on a high mountain where you could see very far. So we would often transport the goods, the merchandise, to these stores or from one store to the other, like at Kingscliff to Cribini. Now when you're at Cribini, you're on a high plateau there overlooking the valley and the mountains towards this side here, towards Mapumulu.

I was still young. I must have been around about 14 or 15. My father was a farmer, but he also had some trading stores, some supermarkets.

And while I was there at that time, overlooking this valley, looking towards the mountains here at Mapumulu, I had a heart-breaking longing. I felt very drawn to that place, to the mountains across the valley, the Mapumulu area. I didn't understand it at that time.

But when the Lord poured out His Spirit in Mapumulu a short time later, then I realized what it was all about. I understood why I had that deep longing, and I was drawn to that place. It was quite a few years before that actually happened.

It was even before I'd really gotten converted. So God did in His greatness. Wonderful to think that God had prepared that from of old, before the foundations of the earth were laid.

God had chosen that place and the people of Mapumulu, you who were there, to do what He did. God has His will, His plan, His purpose, His blueprint for your life as well. But woe to you if you are not found within His will.

And I want to jump to that time, the period, the years just before when God sent His Spirit. I'd been preaching the Gospel in various places in the Republic and South Africa at that time, for 12 years already. And then I was invited by the magistrate at Mapumulu to come there.

He asked me to come and preach the Gospel at Mapumulu, saying, in the area there were so many people living immoral lives, people bound by alcohol and different things. I prayed about it and said, Lord, what is Your will? What do You say about this invitation to Mapumulu? Because we cannot just go to a place just because the magistrate or anyone has invited us. God has to lead us there.

And I woke up one morning very early, even before the roosters crowed. I took the Bible and I read. And I opened it and I read from Romans chapter 1, verse 14.

I am a debtor both to Greeks and to Barbarians, to Gentiles, both to wise and to unwise. So as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the Gospel to you who are in Rome also. I am a debtor both to Greeks and to Barbarians, to Gentiles, both to wise and to unwise.

And I felt as if God was speaking to me clearly and saying to me, you are indebted to these people at Mapumulu. To go to the Greeks, to the Gentiles, to the wise, to the unwise, you need to go and help these people. Of course there was no Greek there or a Jew.

But yet today we see that by going there, the Gospel has reached all those people there. And they are not just those people there, but all of us that are present here, whether we like it or not. God in His eternal plan has put us into that group, into this pot.

What nonsense! They are all on the way to hell. What nonsense! They are all on the way to hell. What nonsense! They are all on the way to hell.

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What nonsense! They are all on the way to hell. What nonsense! They are all on the way to hell. Christians to live in that way, where boys, young men have this pornography with magazines and pictures of girls.

Don't they realize, and the parents, they think they've got Christian children, did they not hear the Lord Jesus saying, don't cry for me, cry for yourself and your own children? It broke my heart, I thought well what does it help to preach, if this is the result, I'd rather give up preaching and go and get myself a job or start a business and earn myself a living. I even saw my brothers, they had their businesses, they bought cars, they were getting on with life and I said Lord here I am, putting my all into it and this is the result, it's not worth it. When I got converted and this book was so precious to me, it was the most precious book to me, I couldn't part with it.

It was sweeter than honey. I was a young man, I had never had a girlfriend. I didn't know what it meant to drink alcohol.

We had a dance hall at home on the farm, but I never danced with a girl there. The Bible is so precious to me, I couldn't part with it, I couldn't part with it. It's so precious to me, more precious than any ball or sport or anything.

I read in John 15 verse 7, if you abide in me, my words in you, you will ask whatever you like and I will do it for you. If you abide in me and my words in you, you will ask whatever you ask of me and I will do it for you. That was sweeter than honey, it was the sweetest thing for me in this world.

In John 14 verse 12, Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in me, the works that I do, he will do also, and greater works than these, he will do, because I go to my Father. I said, Lord, while it's not even necessary for you to say verily, verily, I say unto you, because as it is, what you say, you are the truth itself. And it is the truth what you say, you don't have to confirm it so often.

He says, he who believes in me, the works that I do, he will do also, and greater works than these, he will do, because I go to my Father. And I said, well Lord, I believe in you. And then I read in Matthew, the works that the Lord had done, and in Mark, and in Luke, and in John, the works of the Lord Jesus.

And I said, Lord, so it's possible that what you did, I can do as well. Not because I am anything, and worthy, but because I believe in you, and because you go to the Father. That filled my heart.

You see, that's the reason why I forgot about girls, I forgot about the things of this world, and sport, and everything else. Because these words meant so much to me. Dear friends, I can't understand Christian youth people, if they are busy with things of the world.

And the word of God is not the first and the last thing in their lives. I say, they are damned liars. And you girls, don't be happy, you won't be in heaven with your child.

The Bible says, if we love Jesus, we will keep his word. And you want to tell me, young people that don't keep God's word, they go to heaven. Well, we live in times like these.

In times like these, where people believe a lie, and live a lie. And then I read in John 16, it's amazing when you read the Bible, what it means and what it does to you. Maybe it does nothing for you, because maybe you read it at night when you're fast asleep.

And it doesn't mean anything to you. The Bible should mean so much to you, it should move you right down into your bone and marrow. To the very core of your being.

The word of God should move us through marrow and bone. And if it doesn't, on the day of judgment it will. If hell doesn't swallow you.

John 16, verse 23. Most assuredly I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name, He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name, ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

So these are the things that kept me busy and that worried me. Day and night I had no peace, I sweated at night, because these things worried me. I loved to read books on revival.

One after the other, it was a delicacy to me. It was the best delicacy that filled my heart with heavenly life and joy. I read about these revivals, it was so wonderful to me, and revivals in America.

And about the one where the cinemas were even closed. When the Lord started working, they closed the cinemas. Some were converted into churches.

For six years they were closed. But sadly after six years they reopened, one after the other. I can't understand that.

I'd ask the Christians, what happened after six years? Well they opened them again. Oh, Christians, if they are late like that, they are damnable people. They are cursed and damned.

Dogs that go back to what they spit out, they eat them again. Yes, I can understand that, yes. I have seen it myself.

It's not good enough to say, well I parted from that sin. For six years I didn't do it. But then after six years, you're like a dog that goes back to its vomit.

a pig going back to its mire and it's not good enough to say well I'm a Methodist, I'm a Lutheran, I'm from Kwasi Zobantu. You'll meet up with him whose face shines brighter than the sun. Ipepeleliti, unkulunkulukatokozisomuntohosheshanyovana God is not well pleased with a pig sliding whether you're 10 years old, 16 or 60 or 96.

Woe to you if you believe in so-called, believe in Christ and you don't keep his word. Mayeguaumautai uyakolukoluhutjesu, gotohawatrinamazwiake. Sakala, nataunkos, skhaugele, skhaugele, sibilesiskat.

We cried to the Lord, we merciful to us, we live in evil times. Prayed that the Lord would send his Holy Spirit. We said, O Lord, work in mundu, engim kipekele, ezo kipa unkuba, esbayini singulupi.

There were not many of us at that time. We met there in Mapumulu in that little place that was previously a cow shed. We had hired some prisoners from the local prison to come and help us to clear it out.

I think in those days you probably paid about 20 cents a day for a prisoner. Kukona, ogushivogase, ngesjalman. Atengitela, kete anofundisjalman, kotaike, anisfundi.

Gotungamsole, ngobanesfrenji, siangeshula, asipumina, amakalinam. Now in German you can say it so nicely. I'm just sorry that you don't understand German, but I've been telling you for years now you must learn other languages.

But what can I say because I haven't learned French either yet. My nose is not made for it. In German we speak with the mouth.

I'm not taught to speak with the nose. Hi, ngesjalmani kutua. Ich sagte Ihnen, dass die Erweckung begonnen hat im Kuhstall.

Habe ich Gefangene bekommen und die haben den Mist rausgeschmissen, gereinigt. Und da haben wir begonnen. Und symbolisch ist das ein perfektes Bild.

Willst du Erweckung haben, neues Leben, soll der Heilige Geist wirken. Raus mit dem Mist aus deinem Leben. Raus mit dem Mist.

Und Kuhmist ist noch viel schlimmer als der schlimmste Mist, den es gibt. Menschenmist ist unschlimm. Saumist, siebenmal so schlimm soll es sein wie Menschenmist.

Aber der schlimmste Mist ist der Satansmist, die Sünde in deinem Leben. And as we had to clear that cow shed of the dung, the cow dung that was in there. That was symbolic.

And that was showing us that we must get rid of all the dung that's in our lives. And you get much worse dung than that dung. The dung of the devil is the worst type that you get.

As I said, it's the worst dung. Right out of hell, produced by the devil. It's gone right through him.

And you are his pit. If we'd only see sin in its true worth, in reality, maybe we'd hate it. Then we would stop with the sin of love.

It's not nice. Then we would stop having these pet sins which we have our nice times with. But those will end when one burns in hell.

I prayed and I said, Lord, You promised in the end times that You would send Your Spirit, pour it out among all mankind. O Lord, please do it in our time. Time has passed.

You see how short the time is. And God started showing me revival. God's work is kept by His Holy Spirit.

And He can't allow sin. In the early church, sin came in. Ananias and Sapphira had to die because of it.

They had to bleed because of it. And all over, even in the Old Testament, God revealed Himself as the Holy One. Even to Moses' two nephews.

And He told Aaron, My brother, this is what God has said. If we draw close to Him, we must be pure, holy and clean. I assume that most of us confess to be Christians.

May I ask you, dear fellow Christian, How is sin dealt with you in your life? Just a bit of egoism, your own way, your own will. Just a bit of bitterness or grudges. You know what stops God's working as He would

like through the power of the Holy Ghost? Nothing else but the sin of Christians, those born-again people.

Worldliness in your life. Whether you see it on the streets, in Berlin, Paris, France, South Africa, or in the bioscope in your home. In television, where you can see hell from far.

Where it gets close to you, that it warms your unsanctified blood and the lusts of the flesh. And you call yourself by that name, whose foundation is steadfast. He that names that name should depart from all iniquity.

In 1960, communism was a great danger in the world. A German communist leader said, communism is not dead, it is only sick, but will be healed again. And then I say, we seldom complain about communism, talk the evil about communism, say it's a bad thing.

And communism is powerful. In not many years it has overcome most of the earth. But God the Holy Ghost is not only powerful, He is almighty.

And there I stood, Erlo, here in South Africa, with this great problem. How is it possible that communism, in the power of Satan, can go so far and move forward, and that the almighty spirit of God does not? Now take that with you to your bedroom and repeat it all night if you can. How is that possible, if He is the almighty spirit of God? Today, many more people are born in this world than reborn.

The kingdom of God goes backwards, not forwards, number wise. And Jesus' commandment is, go and make all the world to be young. Will the commandment be done by you? How many have you already taught to keep everything that Jesus commanded you? And taught you? How many? How many people have you made Christians, not for six years, but that will keep God's word for the rest of their lives? How many? And every day you are a day closer to the day when you will meet the judge who will judge you by His holy word.

He says, I have not come to judge you, but the words which I have spoken will judge you on judgment day. And I tell you, you will be like a clock that is ticking, and you will not be able to continue. How many have you already taught to keep everything that Jesus commanded you? How many? And every day you will be a day closer to the day when you will meet the judge who will judge you by His holy word.

And if God cannot use you, cannot work through you, then it's because of sin. Maybe an old sin, maybe a new sin, but before God it's the same. A sin doesn't get old before Him.

But we praise God that He is the living and true God. And if you think I'm going too far, then look at the AIDS patients, in the whole world, on earth and under earth, they say they are not healed yet, but God shows us that His name is above all names. And if you don't believe because of what I'm telling you, because of sin, you can say, oh, the Antichrist will also do miracles, but it is a strange Antichrist who says, cursed is he who does not love Jesus.

And whoever says that he loves Jesus and does not keep his word is a liar. If the Antichrist can say that, well, then doubt what I'm telling you. And if you doubt it, then have a good night's sleep early, pack your bags and go, go where you come from, in the direction where you come from and where you're going.

It's not up, it's down. That is the opposite of God's word. That is the opposite of God's word, that it must be according to the scripture.

And if you don't want to accept God's word and live accordingly, then it would be better if tomorrow morning you just pack your things, you go back. And if you go on that way, you'll end up in hell unless you repent. If we want to play church, then Kwasi Zabantu is a cursed place, a place of the devil, a place where he is happy.

But may God, the Father, in Jesus' name, not allow that, but that by his grace and by the Holy Spirit of his, those things. May God, the Father, in Jesus' name, not allow that, but that by his grace and by the Holy Spirit of his, those things. I'm sorry, without that I won't be able to stand before the Living One and the Holy One.

And I'm sorry, I fear you won't be able to stand before him either. Shall we rise, stand, and pray? Zitandas. Zitandas.

Lord Jesus, we prayed and asked you to speak to us. The letter kills, but the Spirit brings life. Speak to old and young.

May it be a time where we wake up from our sleep. We pray, Lord, that you will work in an amazing way, above what we can even ask or pray for. Amen.

Now, before we leave, I just want to, those who are very inquisitive, they say, you've told us about your physical weakness and ailments, you didn't tell us what is troubling you. One doctor said, eh no, put on the brakes, go slowly, you're working too hard. That's why you are faced with these things.

Now you know. Maybe it adds, if you speak to people who are blind and don't listen, that adds to that burden. Amen.

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