

Being an Agent of Revival

by Mark D. Partin

The sermon emphasizes the importance of hearing God's voice, coming up higher, and lingering before God to experience revival and the unleashing of God's spirit.

Duration: 35:04

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-6, Exodus 24:9-11, Ezekiel 36:26-27, Ezekiel 37:12-14, Acts 2:1-4

Topics: "Spiritual Revival", "Personal Surrender"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of seeking a deeper relationship with God, drawing parallels between the experiences of Duncan Campbell and Moses. It highlights the need for pastors and believers to break away from contentment, seek full surrender, and hunger for a fresh touch from God to unleash His Spirit in their lives and ministries.

Transcript

If you have your Bibles open to the book of Exodus chapter 3. Brad Allen wrote a book called Catch the Wind and in that book he did a tremendous job of capturing the the very heart of Duncan Campbell. Duncan Campbell was a was a Scotsman and he received Christ as a young man and and later he was gone into service in 1917. He was on the Calvary Division riding a horse in the middle of battle and he was shot and there he lie in the mud and the muck and he's crying out to his father, oh God, as others around him cried out as they were bleeding as they were dying.

He cried out to God, he said, oh God would you make me as holy as you could make a man. Oh God, as you make me as holy as you could make a man who's been saved but he's a sinner. Oh God, and God answered Duncan Campbell's prayer and God took Duncan Campbell into a hospital unit and there in the hospital unit there was times where he had to ask God to stay his hand because he could no longer bear the weight of God's glory bearing upon him.

Can you imagine that brothers and sisters how you have to say oh God hold back your hand because I can't bear the glory any longer. And Duncan Campbell he raised up and he preached all over northwestern Scotland and he was used mildly in revival and he became a known preacher. And soon he began to preach on the Conference Circuit and he began to pastor a church and he pastored one church and he moved to a larger church and he pastored another church and he and his wife and his family had pastored now for 20 years.

One day Duncan Campbell was getting up at 5 a.m. to prepare his message to preach at a conference and he goes to a study and he opens his Bible and he begins to prepare and he begins to pray and all of a sudden he hears singing coming from the next room. And he slips quietly to the next door and he opens it and there sits his 16 year old daughter named Sheena and she looks at her daddy and she says oh daddy isn't Jesus wonderful. Oh daddy Jesus has been waking me up at 4 a.m. for the last two weeks to come together before him and to pray and to read his word and to sing.

Oh daddy isn't Jesus wonderful. And Duncan Campbell steals back away to a study he does some more preparation and he heads off to the conference meeting. Before he preaches he listens to a message by a man and he preaches on full surrender and Duncan Campbell said God used that message on full surrender and he used his teenage daughter to stir his heart because somewhere along the line Duncan Campbell had grown content.

Guys I've been pastoring the same church for 22 years I know what it is to be content even not in a healthy way. He returned home that night and he told his wife he said honey don't bother me I'm going to my study to get along with God. And Duncan Campbell went upstairs and he laid out in front of the fireplace and he got on his face and he began to cry out oh God.

God you've used me in the past but God I don't know your power like I once did. Oh God. And Duncan Campbell laid on his face and at 2 a.m. his 16 year old daughter slipped into that study and she knelt down beside her daddy and she said daddy just go through with God.

Daddy go through with God. And Duncan Campbell immediately said his mind thought Lord if I go back into revival ministry into evangelism who will take care of my family who will take care of my children Lord how will I prepare provide for my daughter Sheena a new coat that she needs and instantly Sheena said daddy if you're worried about my coat mom can take and make my old coat just as good as new but daddy go through with God. And that was a turning point in Duncan Campbell's life and ministry and God raised him up after that and he preached on the Isle of Lewis and the Hebrides revival transfer for three years and brothers it's easy to get content and we want the Spirit of God unleashed.

You look at Exodus chapter 2 in verse 21 and it says and Moses was content to herd the sheep of his father-in-law. How could Moses this man who was supernaturally spared how could Moses this man who had been equipped to be the deliverer of the people of God how could he be content herding goats Duncan Campbell became known maybe a little pride settled into his life he was on the conference circuit but God used his 16 year old daughter in a sermon on full surrender to stir his heart to realize he needed a fresh hunger a fresh touch from the Living Lord and you read in Exodus chapter 3 how Moses goes out to herd the flocks and he sees a bush being burned but it's not consumed and he says I'll pause and look and see what God is doing and he pauses and he looks and in that midst of that moment God calls Moses. Men you've been called just as I have we had to stop somewhere in the path of life and we had to listen to the Father and God called us and when God called Moses he told him to go back and to deliver the children of Israel he told him what his plan was he told him what his purpose was he said Moses you're my man for the job and Moses did just like me and just like you he made excuses why he could not do it he said what's in your hand and he said just a stick he said cast it to the ground and it became a serpent he took his hand and he put it inside his bosom and he pulled it out and it was leprous and he put it back and it was white and clean.

God I can't speak and God said your brother Aaron can speak and I've called him you read the book of Hebrews 5 I've called Aaron and he's on his way to meet you but you go back and you be the one you be the agent of revival and so he goes back on this six to ten day journey and he meets Aaron now you can imagine two brothers that's been separated for a long time how they catch up with what's transpiring and how Moses is Aaron you know you were called by God God told me you were you know you heard the voice of God just as I did Aaron let me show you something and he takes his hand he puts it inside his bosom and it becomes leprous and he pulls it back out and it becomes wider so he said Aaron look at the power of God he's demonstrated he takes that stick he cast it to the ground it becomes

a servant he said Aaron pick it up by the tail and Aaron picks it up by the tail and it becomes a staff he said Aaron do you see these signs do you see these miracles both were called both heard the voice of God both saw the signs and the miracles and when they got to Egypt it was Aaron who cast the stick to the ground and it became a serpent and it devoured Pharaoh's magicians sticks and it was Aaron who held the staff in his hand and the Nile River became blood and then you know how the plagues go the lice the frogs the hail the death of the firstborn and here was Moses and Aaron both had been called both had been commissioned both had heard the voice of God both saw the signs and the miracles both understood God's power and then you go to Exodus chapter 13 and you see God brings them

out how did he bring them out there was a pillar of cloud and there was a pillar of fire that went before them and as the pillar moved they moved as the pillar stopped they stopped and God brought them to the Red Sea and there the Red Sea Moses stands and God says go forward and he holds up the rod and the waters divide and they marched through on dry ground and then Pharaoh's army chasing them those same waters fall down and destroy their enemies and then in Exodus chapter 15 you find the first time singing is mentioned in the Bible and the people of God are praising their God for such deliverance and here was Moses and Aaron both had been called both had been commissioned both knew how to hear God's voice both saw the signs and the wonders both understood the pillar of cloud the pillar

of fire and God leads them on they come to the bitter waters of Mara and God makes them sweet they wake up and all of sudden there's manna all over the ground and God is saying I will take care of you I will provide for you one day at a time but I'm not going to put it inside your mouth you've got to bend your knee every day and pick it up and acknowledge I am the creator I'm the sustainer I'm the giver I'm not going to do it for you I will give it to you but you've got to bow before me and they did and then there was the quail and then there was a rock where the water just gushed full but the most amazing thing of all is in Exodus chapter 24 because in Exodus chapter 24 you read these words and now he said to Moses come up to the Lord you and Aaron Nadab and Abihu and 70 of the elders of

Israel and worship from afar have you ever heard God tell you you need to come up higher have you ever heard God tell you you need to go in deeper have you ever heard God's voice speak to your heart and saying you've got to break away from the crowd and you've got to break away from the group and you've got to get alone with me come up into my presence and look what it says in verse 9 and then Moses went up also Aaron Nadab and Abihu and 70 of the elders of Israel and they saw the God of Israel now that blows our theology apart but I can't tell you other than what the word says they saw the Lord in his full glory I doubt it but they saw the Lord and they not only saw the God of Israel and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone and it was like the very heavens

in its clarity but on the nobles of the children of Israel he did not lay his hand and they saw God and they ate and they drank in his presence let me tell you when God calls you to come up higher and there you're

looking at this mountain that is billowing with smoke and fire and thunders and lightnings as he calls you to come up higher in fear and trepidation you walk on that ground as its holy ground and you come into the presence of a living God and he will feed your soul but when you don't we go hungry and we miss what God wants both men were called both men heard the voice of God both men had the commission of God both men saw the signs and the wonders they saw the provision of God both men went up into the mountain of God both men ate and drank in the very presence of the father and

then God said to Moses come up higher can you imagine going higher than where you are can you imagine there at Mount Orab this word that means desolation where God says I'm gonna separate you out from everybody else and I'm gonna isolate you unto myself and he calls Moses to go up that highest spot eight thousand one hundred and sixty feet Mount LeConte in the Smokies is 6,500 feet in height we walked it hiked it struggled it about two years ago it took us five and a half hours and it whipped us and Moses is 80 years old and he's going up eight thousand one hundred and sixty feet and he's not missing a moment to come up preacher God commissions you to come up higher just like he commissions me to come up higher but it takes time to climb an 8,000 foot mountain and it takes energy to climb

an 8,000 foot mountain and we've got to give God time and we've got to give God energy if we want him unleashed inside of us so he will unleash his spirit inside the church and God told Aaron and the 70 elders you go back down both were called both heard the voice of God both saw the signs the wonders the miracles both went to the mountain and ate and God fed them in his presence and Aaron goes down and what does he do he listens to a bunch of stiff-necked people saying give me what I want I don't know where Moses is he's been gone a long time Aaron you gotta make this God give me what I want you either leave or you can go down and you can build a golden calf and Aaron said give me your gold stuff and they brought their bracelets and their earrings and he fashioned it into a into a ball

and the people bowed before it and God spoke to Moses on the mountain he gave him the Ten Commandments the tablets he says this is how you walk this is how you live what else did he give him on that mountainside he gave them in instructions for the tabernacle the tabernacle takes up 50 chapters in your Bible he says this is how you approach me this is how you make space for me he said Moses here's the instructions for for the high priest this is the clothes that he's to wear this is the miter and it's to say holy and to the Lord Moses you better go down because there's trouble in the camp you ever had trouble in your camp brothers yeah me too me too and Moses goes down and Aaron starts to stammer and stutter Aaron you had 70 men who would stand with you why do you fear man we've been

called to fear God not man and if you have to have the affirmation of God you're wonderful but if you have to have the affirmation of man in your life you're a threat to the kingdom because when we need the affirmation of others affirmation of God we no longer fear God we fear man and you find here that Moses says who is on the Lord's side and the tribe of Levi stood up and that's why I believe Levi was in the priestly tribe from then forward and you find Moses interceding for Israel they took the golden calf and they ground it to powder put it in water made them drink it because it was no longer consecrated holy fit for service both were called both were commissioned both heard the voice of God both saw the signs and the wonders both were on the mountain with God they ate in the very

presence of God he fed them and one left to build a golden calf and the other went deeper you choose how deep you will go with a you choose and then you go to chapter 34 33 guardians the golden calf story and he says I'm not going with you and Moses says Lord if you don't go with me I'm not going anywhere we live in an age today where it doesn't matter if God goes with us or not does it we can still do it what's

the difference between Moses and Aaron Moses made space and time for God he took a tent and he carried it outside the camp now you understand how many people the children of Israel numbered at that time they say that was probably 12 miles when they camped and he's in the middle of the camp and he's hiking six miles just to take this tent to get on the outside of the camp why

because he's got to get along with God man do you know what it is to get along with God to turn off your phone to get away from the computer and Moses goes out and he builds this tabernacle that's not the tabernacle that we gave instructions to while he was on the mountain he built the tabernacle of meeting and as he builds this tabernacle of meeting he seeks to face the God when the golden calf was built the pillar of fire in cloud stopped and Moses is desperate God are you desperate for the presence you understand that's the only thing that makes us different in the world and all the humanitarian aid that takes place around the world and even our own land it's the presence of God and if we have not the presence of God we are no different than a humanitarian aid or organization and Moses

goes into the tabernacle of meeting and the pillar he comes back bless God aren't you glad folks it's not dependent upon the crowd aren't you glad brothers that you can find that tabernacle and you can go inside and you can pour yourself out before the Father and you can seek his face and you can agonize you see if all you ever have is brushes with conviction and you agonize over the convicting power of sin and you come before God said Oh God forgive me Oh God cleanse me that you leave and you never linger there man when you don't linger you miss it you've got to learn to linger there before the Lord because when you linger before the Lord he takes that altar where he brought conviction to your life he takes that altar where he's disturbed your spirit he gives cleansing to your soul and

that altar becomes a table and all of a sudden he starts feeding your soul he feeds your spirit he changes you he enables you he strengthens you and all of a sudden you stand but nobody else where was Aaron daddy Moses is going into the tabernacle Moses is going into the tabernacle to pray daddy daddy why don't you go son I'm reading the paper gotta catch up on the scores but daddy why don't you the river became blood yes daddy but Moses is going right now both were called both heard the voice of God both saw signs and wonders both went into the mountain both ate before the father and as Moses would go to the tabernacle it says those around would watch and they would stand you never know who's watching your life brothers I pastored in West Virginia for eight years my next-door neighbor

was a drunk we were having a revival I remember I was going door-to-door handing out flyers you know the story and I gave his door I gave it a knock I stuck a flyer and I'm going to the next house and he said hey now don't act that pious brothers and here's what he said to me this drunk he said I watch your life and you're different I felt about that because I didn't want to have time for him right there and it's Moses goes into the tabernacle they stand and they watch and the pillar and they see the pillar come back and that gives hope doesn't it that gives hope because if he can do it for you he can do it for me think I Scott sat down in my church in 2006 with a revival that lasted 40 days the atmosphere lasted 11 months and if he can do it in some back hills place up in the mountains

of East Tennessee with an obscure preacher you've never heard of he can do it for you listen to me Moses he took advantage of the access he had to the father where's Aaron daddy Moses is back in the tabernacle daddy why don't you go son I'm the high priest I only have to go once a year and sometimes that's how we can be as pastors isn't it I've got things that are pressing on my calendar and my schedule and I don't have time to to make the hike up the mountain I don't have time to get away and turn off the phone from the distractions and get off Facebook doing my ministry calls and Moses heard God speak

face-to-face as a friend to a friend but where's the high priest he's busy brothers we can get so busy we fail to realize it's not about us it's about the Lord Ezekiel chapter 36 you find

God telling over in the latter part verse 26 and verse 27 he said I will give you a new heart and I will put a new spirit I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh and I will put my spirit within you and cause you to walk in my stature and you will keep my in here it is God is saying to Ezekiel I know you can't do it on your own you can't obey me on your own you can't even love me on your own and I'm gonna fix that I'm gonna come and I'm gonna take that heart of stone out of you and I'm gonna put my through lock I'm gonna put my spirit inside of you I'm gonna blow my breath inside of you and I'm gonna give you life and you will love me as I want you to love me and you will obey me because it's me in you and that's what happens when the spirits

unleashed and then he tells Ezekiel there in chapter 37 the hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the spirit of the Lord and sent me down in the midst of a valley and it was full of bones you ever preach their preachers and he said preach prophesy do you understand God spoke to Ezekiel 146 times in the book of Ezekiel you know how many times Ezekiel spoke back to God once when God asked him question he said can they live Lord you know you say that every Sunday with me don't you brothers Lord you know he said preach and Ezekiel started preaching and all of a sudden there became the noise and everything was shaking man it not exciting guys when all of a sudden you're preaching stuff starts happening and stuff starts moving and stuff starts shaking that's exciting because stuff

can mean everything and stuff can mean absolutely nothing because they're still dead with all the stuff going on and God said Ezekiel prophesy to the wind prophesying is foretelling the revelation of God at times it may be forth telling but it is for it is preaching you know that brothers and it's one thing to preach to dead bones the Word of God it takes a certain type of integrity to stand and do that but it takes another type of integrity to all together to stand and prophesy to the wind to the spirit pray you see that's how God intersects us it's not with our preaching it's the praying that unleashes the spirit right we think it's the preaching because we got the noise but he said it's it's you prophesy to the wind and he said look at this I'm gonna use you Ezekiel I'm gonna use you

preacher but you understand it's me and it's not you look what he says in verse 12 therefore prophesy and say to them oh my people I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves and bring you into the land of Israel then you should know that I am the Lord and when I have opened your graves all my people and brought you up from your grace I will put my spirit in you and you shall live and I will place you in your land and you shall know that I the Lord have spoken it and performed it says the Lord you know when Jonah went to Nineveh and preached chapter 3 verse 1 he says you preach what I tell you was the Spirit of God unleashed and our culture wants no part of that and a lot of churches want no part of that and Moses is there bowing before the tabernacle seeking God and

the pillar of fire comes back you remember on Pentecost let's get everybody nervous here on Pentecost it says cloven tongues of fire rested on the believers no longer is the fire above the tabernacle no longer is the fire above the temple now the fire it rests upon you and in you and it burns inside of you and you're baptized with a spirit and with fire it's in you because God says I'm gonna blow my breath on you and I will give you life come up high or go down and fear man and give them what they want and miss me all together will you bow your heads and close your eyes as we end man I long for that fresh hunger like Duncan Campbell long for he stirred in him by his 16 year old daughter and by a sermon on surrender and he realized I'm content Lord give me fresh hunger so maybe you just

need to make your pew an altar and ask God to break that contentment yes I know it I've been there 22 years and ask God to give me fresh hunger fresh oil ask God to blow his breath one more time oh Lord prepare me prepare my heart God to worship you your eternal God you're ever faithful you're ever true oh God prepare me oh God prepare us because if the spirits to be unleashed the church God it's got to be unleashed in your under shepherds the pastors and I'm preaching to myself man Oh God blow your breath in my life

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