

**REVIVALISTS AND MYSTICS**  
**THE FIRE OF CONSECRATION: CLASS 6**  
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1. The Fire of Consecration: Unusual Dedication

- a. Today we are going to take a look at two revivalists who were unusually dedicated to God's vision for their cities and through consecration were conduits of God's presence and revival power.

2. Ephesus Revival & Paul's Unusual Dedication

- a. The Ephesus revival is described in Acts 19:1-20. It begins with the conversion and baptism of twelve disciples of John, and over a two year period grew into one of the mightiest moves of the Spirit in all the book of Acts.
  - i. The gifts of the Spirit were manifest in their midst from the outset.

Acts 19:5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. 7 Now the men were about twelve in all.

- ii. The Gospel was proclaimed throughout the region, and was confirmed with "unusual miracles" and deliverances.

Acts 19:10 And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. 11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

- iii. Many experienced the fear of God and conviction, and those involved in the occult practices turned away wholeheartedly. The effect of this revival is described succinctly in verse 20, "The word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed." The economics related to idol worship were disrupted in the region, because so many turned to the Lord.

Act 19:17 This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. 18 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. 19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

Acts 19:25 He (Demetrius the idol maker) called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. 26 Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. 27 So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship."

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- b. In Acts 20:16-37 we hear Paul describe his lifestyle as he served in the midst of the Ephesus revival over the course of two years. This speech is his final farewell to the elders he originally baptized.

Acts 20:16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. 17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; 20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, 21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. 22 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. 25 "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. 32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. 34 Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. 35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " 36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, 38 sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

- c. Paul's devotion was characterized by His willingness to suffer persecution (even unto martyrdom), his decision to persevere even in the face of the Spirit's assurance of coming persecution (chains & imprisonment), His deep concern and pain ("warn with tears") over the danger of heresy, and his provision for the work of the ministry through physical labor. Paul's ministry of revival in Ephesus was glorious, but labor intensive and demanded a heart to serve with humility, suffer persecution, anguish in teaching and prayer over those he loved, and to preach the Gospel house to house as he worked a hard manual job to provide for himself and his companions.
  - i. 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; 20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house,

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- ii. 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 But none of these things move me: ***nor do I count my life dear to myself,***
- iii. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone **night and day with tears.**
- iv. 33 I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. 34 Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have **provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me.**

d. Paul summarizes his ministry credentials elsewhere saying:

2 Co 11:23 in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. 24 From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, *in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;* 27 *in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—*28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: *my deep concern for all the churches.* To Consider: What have been some of the most significant challenges or pressures in your life? What did you have to surrender in order to make it/overcome?

### 3. The Welsh Revival & Evan Robert's Unusual Dedication

- a. Evan Robert was a man possessed with this same Spirit of unusual dedication to God as Paul and David, and the fruit was one of the most powerful manifestations of God's presence and saving grace through revival in this century.
- b. The Welsh revival began in late 1904 under the leadership of Evan Roberts (1878–1951), at the time of the revival's outbreak he was a 26-year-old former collier and minister-in-training. The revival lasted less than a year, but in that period 100,000 converts were made...The movement spread to Scotland and England, with estimates that a million people were converted in Britain.<sup>1</sup>
- c. Evan Roberts was born and raised in a Welsh Calvinist Methodist family in Loughor, on the Glamorgan and Carmarthenshire border. As a boy he was unusually serious and very diligent in his Christian life. He memorized verses of the Bible and was a daily attender of Moriah Chapel, a church about a mile from his home. Even at 13 years of age he began to develop a heart for a visitation from God.
- d. He later wrote "*I said to myself: I will have the Spirit. And through all weathers and in spite of all difficulties I went to the meetings... for ten or eleven years I have prayed for revival. I could sit up all night to read or talk about revivals. It was the Spirit who moved me to think about revival.*"

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<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1904-1905\\_Welsh\\_Revival](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1904-1905_Welsh_Revival)

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- e. After working in the coal mines and then as a smithy, he entered a preparatory college at Newcastle Emlyn, as a candidate for the ministry. It was 1903 and he was 25 years old. It was at this time that he sought the Lord for more of His Spirit. He believed that he would be baptized in the Holy Spirit and sometimes his bed shook as his prayers were answered. The Lord began to wake him at 1.00 am for divine fellowship, when he would pray for four hours, returning to bed at 5.00 am for another four hours sleep.
- f. The following is Evan Roberts personal testimony of the encounters he had with God, that prepared him to lead the welsh revival: "For thirteen years I had prayed for the Spirit, and this is the way I was led to pray. William Davies, the deacon, said one night in the society, "Remember to be faithful. What if the Spirit descended and you absent? Remember Thomas! What a loss he had!" I said then to myself: 'I will have the Spirit.'
- g. And through all weather, and in spite of all difficulties, I went to the meetings. Many times, on seeing other boys with the boats on the tide, I was tempted to turn back and join them. But, no. Then I said to myself: 'Remember your resolve to be faithful,' and on I went. Prayer meeting Monday evening at the chapel; prayer meeting Tuesday evening at Pysgah (Sunday School branch); Church meeting Wednesday evening; Band of Hope Thursday; class Friday evening-to these I went faithfully throughout the years. For ten or eleven years I have prayed for a revival. I could sit up all night to read or talk about revivals. It was the Spirit that moved me to think about a revival.
- h. One Friday night last spring, when praying by my bedside before retiring, I was taken up to a great expanse – with out time and space. It was communion with God. Before this a far-off God I had. I was frightened that night, but never since. So great was my shivering that I rocked the bed, and my brother, being awakened, took hold of me, thinking I was ill. After that experience I was awakened every night a little after one o'clock. This was most strange, for through the years I slept like a rock, and no disturbance in my room would awaken me. From that hour I was taken up into the Divine Fellowship for about four hours.
- i. What it was I cannot tell you; except that it was Divine. About five o'clock I was again allowed to sleep on till about nine. At this time I was again taken up into the same experience as in the earlier hours of the morning until about twelve or one o'clock. They questioned me at home. Why didn't I get up earlier ? But it was too Divine to say anything about it. This went on for about three months....<sup>2</sup>
- j. He visited a meeting where Seth Joshua was preaching and heard the evangelist pray "Lord, bend us". The Holy Spirit said to Evan, "That's what you need". At the following meeting Evan experienced a powerful filling with the Holy Spirit.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.revival-library.org/pensketches/revivalists/testrobertse.html>

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- k. Here is His personal account, 'On the way to the nine o'clock meeting the Rev. Seth Joshua remarked, 'We are going to have a wonderful meeting to-day.' To this I replied, 'I feel myself almost bursting.'"The meeting, having been opened, was handed over to the Spirit. I was conscious that I would have to pray. As one and the other prayed I put the question to the Spirit, 'Shall I pray now?' 'Wait a while,' said He. When others prayed I felt a living force come into my bosom. It held my breath, and my legs shivered, and after every prayer I asked, 'Shall I now?' The living force grew and grew, and I was almost bursting. And instantly someone ended his prayer-my bosom boiling. I would have burst if I had not prayed.
- l. What boiled me was that verse, 'God commending His Love.' I fell on my knees with my arms over the seat in front of me, and the tears and perspiration flowed freely. I thought blood was gushing forth. Mrs. Davies, Mona, New Quay, came to wipe my face. On my right was Mag Phillips, and on my left Maud Davies. For about two minutes it was fearful. I cried, 'Bend me! Bend me! Bend us!' Then, 'Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh!' and Mrs Davies said, 'O wonderful Grace!' What bent me was God commending His Love, and I not seeing anything in it to commend.
- m. After I was bent a wave of peace came over me, and the audience sang, 'I hear Thy welcome Voice.' And as they sang I thought of the bending at the Judgement Day, and I was filled with compassion for those who would be bent on that day, and I wept. Henceforth the salvation of souls became the burden of my heart. From that time I was on fire with a desire to go through all Wales, and, if it were possible, I was willing to pay God for allowing me to go. A plan was agreed upon, and eight of us were to go through Wales, and I was to pay all expenses.
- n. Needless to say, his studies began to take second place! He began praying for a hundred thousand souls and had two visions which encouraged him to believe it would happen.
- o. He then felt led to return to his home town and conduct meetings with the young people of Loughor. With permission from the minister, he began the meetings, encouraging prayer for the outpouring of the Spirit on Moriah. The meetings slowly increased in numbers and powerful waves of intercession swept over those gathered.
- p. During those meetings the Holy Spirit gave Evan four requirements that were later to be used throughout the coming revival:
  - i. Confession of all known sin
  - ii. Repentance and restitution
  - iii. Obedience and surrender to the Holy Spirit
  - iv. Public Confession of Christ

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- q. The Spirit began to be poured out. There was weeping, shouting, crying out, joy and brokenness. Some would shout out, “No more, Lord Jesus, or I’ll die”. This was the beginning of the Welsh Revival. The meetings then moved to wherever Evan felt led to go. Those traveling with him were predominantly female and the young girls would often begin meetings with intense intercession, urging surrender to God and by giving testimony.
  - r. Evan would often be seen on his knees pleading for God’s mercy, with tears. The crowds would come and be moved upon by wave after wave of the Spirit’s presence. Spontaneous prayer, confession, testimony and song erupted in all the meetings. Evan, or his helpers, would approach those in spiritual distress and urge them to surrender to Christ. No musical instruments were played and, often, there would be no preaching. Yet the crowds continued to come and thousands professed conversion.
  - s. The meetings often went on until the early hours of the morning. Evan and his team would go home, sleep for 2–3 hours and be back at the pit-head by 5 am, urging the miners coming off night duty to come to chapel meetings.<sup>3</sup>
4. The Vow of Unusual Dedication
- a. The Apostle Paul, David Brainerd, Jonathan Edwards, Daniel Nash, and Charles Finney, and Evan Roberts all gave themselves in unusual dedication to the Lord and the fruit was the birthing of revival movements through their preaching and prayers.
  - b. The Bible promises strength from God to those who distinguish themselves by their dedicated hearts. God is searching for faithful ones on whose behalf He can manifest His power, what does He see when His eyes fall upon this room?

2Ch 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to **show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him** (NKJV)

2Ch 16:9 The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth **in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him**. (NLT)

- c. Scripture describes King David as a man having a heart of unique dedication to the Lord. The Prophet Samuel testifies of David’s heart saying, “for the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart” (1 Sam 13:14) God “sought out” David, because David was after God.
- d. In Psalm 69:9-13 we get picture of this as David declares, “**Psa 69:9** Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up (consume me). And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me. 10 When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, That became my reproach. 11 I also made sackcloth my garment; I became a byword to them. 12 Those who sit in the gate speak against me, And I am the song of the drunkards. 13 But as for me, my prayer is to You, O LORD

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<sup>3</sup> Bibliography An Instrument of Revival, Brynmor Pierce-Jones 1995, published by Bridge Publishing (ISBN 0-88270-667-5). <http://www.revival-library.org/pensketches/revivalists/robertse.html>

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- e. David is declaring his great passion for the presence of God. He chose to so deeply identify with the Lord, that the reproach of the Lord's enemies were as though they had spoken poorly of David directly. David took people cursing God's name as though they had used his own name as a cuss word, and he mourned the dishonoring of God through humiliating himself in fasting and weeping.
- f. He so deeply mourned the dishonoring of God's presence and name, that he chose in seasons to wear sackcloth instead of the royal robes. The people of influence (those who sat in the gates) despised him for his choice to humble himself in mourning, and the foolish drunkards in the street mocked him in their songs. From the least to the greatest he was criticized for being a man who deeply cared about the reputation and presence of God.
- g. In the end however, David refuses to care how people responded to his acts of humiliation, because He knew that it was pleasing in the eyes of God. He declares "my prayer is to you..." In essence, I am living for your approval God, and I know you are listening.
- h. In Psalm 132 we find a description of David's vow of dedication to the Lord: Psa 132:2 How he swore to the LORD, And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob: 3 "Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, Or go up to the comfort of my bed; 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes Or slumber to my eyelids, 5 Until I find a place for the LORD, A dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."
- i. David made a vow, and his vow was this: "Lord, I'll live in an extravagant commitment to You." He said, "I vow to the Lord, I won't go to the chamber of my house. I won't go to the comfort of my bed. I won't give sleep to my eyes until. . ." Then, in verse 5, he gives the goal, the focal point of this vow: "Until there's a dwelling place of God in my city"
- j. So David isn't saying, "I'll never sleep again." He's saying, "I won't live in business as usual." "I won't just build my own house and attend to my own ministry and my own business. Yes, I'll be responsible. But I will be gripped with something bigger than that—something that demands my commitment beyond my own personal needs and comforts and finances and house."
- k. He describes the vision that possessed him above his own comfort in verse 5: "I want to see a dwelling place for God in this city" (Ps. 132:5, paraphrased).
- l. Now what does David mean by "a dwelling place"? It's a place on the earth where God's manifest presence is being released in an unusual way, and where people in that city are living in full agreement with God. So a dwelling place for God on the earth speaks of people who are living in unity with the Holy Spirit—large numbers of people—and the Spirit releasing an unusual measure of His power and conviction. And the people are living awestruck with God.

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- m. The atmosphere is filled with a spirit of revival, when God comes and dwells in a city. The people are living in the fear of the Lord. But they're not just awestruck; they love Him. They have affection. They tremble before His majesty, but they love Him dearly. The first commandment is in the first place in their life. But more than that: they're awestruck and they're affectionate, yes, but they're obedient. They actually obey the Lord no matter the assignment in their life. And they do it with gratitude. They do it with humility. They're living in unity with God, and the very presence of God is in that geographic region. And power and signs and wonders, prophetic wisdom, the wisdom of God is in their midst; and the prophetic ministry will be in a place beyond any time in history.