FOREWORD BY JACK HAYFORD

THE KEYS FOR ERSONA

MICHAEL L. BROWN & JOHN KILPATRICK WITH LARRY SPARKS

ENDORSEMENTS

Back in the summer of 1991, while living in Argentina I remember one day walking into our office to find Steve prostrate on the floor crying out to God. This was very normal in our house, but this time what I heard him saying was so intense. He was saying, "God, I don't want to work for You in my own strength...I want You to do Your work through me." I backed out and sat down in the hall engulfed in God's presence and started crying and agreeing saying, "Yes God, do it Lord, hear his cry, oh God." Serving God before that day had been very exciting and fruitful, but God birthed in us that day a hunger for more. We wanted it to be so evident that the things done through our lives and ministry could only be done by God Himself. My prayer is that this book, The Fire That Never Sleeps, will stir in everyone who reads it a hunger for God—that they will fight through every distraction to obtain it.

JERI HILL
President of Steve Hill Ministries
Wife of the late Evangelist, Steve Hill

In *The Fire That Never Sleeps*, Dr. Michael Brown, John Kilpatrick, and Larry Sparks help us understand what revival really means. I deeply respect these men of God and am grateful for the part they played in the Brownsville Revival. Dr. Brown writes with such clarity and anointing, dedicated to seeking the truth. Each one of us should be pursuing revival in our lives and on the earth with passion to see God's love and power in greater measure.

Heidi G. Baker, PhD Co-founder and Director of Iris Global I believe that in her latter days the Church will witness the presence and power of God to a degree we have never known before. This display of God's glory will be ushered in as we consecrate ourselves and seek Him—His presence, His purpose, and His fame—above all else.

Does your heart long to see a greater manifestation of God's Kingdom on the earth? Then I pray that the stories and principles contained in this book will ignite in you a passion that alters your life forever.

JOHN BEVERE Author and minister Messenger International

A great spiritual awakening is coming to America. This book will make sure it doesn't pass you by!

SID ROTH
New York Times bestselling author
Host, It's Supernatural!

Three great minds, each touched by the fire of God, have put their hearts together to relive those awesome times when the Holy Spirit invaded earth. Specifically, the site was Pensacola, Florida, and what we remember as the Brownsville Revival.

Twenty years later, those of us who were there will vividly recall its glory as we read *The Fire That Never Sleeps*. Others who came later can experience it vicariously in this wonderful memorial book. Thank God for these writers and the Holy Spirit who motivated them to put these "stones of memory" in our lives!

CHARLES CARRIN
President, Charles Carrin Ministries
Author of *The Edge of Glory* and
co-author of *Word, Spirit, Power*

I am one of the multiple thousands who came running to the mercy seat and met Jesus at the altars in Brownsville. Decades later, the fire from that encounter still burns within me. This is the lasting testament of a genuine move of God. The fruit of the revival is clearly seen in the transformed lives of those who responded to messages; the missionaries who were sent out; the evangelists who, like Steve Hill, boldly preach the truth; and within the churches that continue to burn with God's holy presence.

Pastor Kilpatrick, Dr. Brown, and Larry Sparks have penned some of the burning embers from Brownsville into a book that the dry and thirsty can cast upon their soul. The same flames that touched millions at Brownsville are now waiting to touch you. *The Fire That Never Sleeps* is not just about what God did, it's about what He is doing and how you cultivate and sustain a move of God in your own life.

Daniel K. Norris Evangelist with Steve Hill Ministries

Dr. Michael Brown and Pastor John Kilpatrick's new book, *The Fire that Never Sleeps: Keys to Sustaining Personal Revival*, is an amazing book that one would expect from two figures who are so experienced in revival. I found the book enlightening and encouraging, both inspiring and instructive. It is a book I will carry on our book tables for our forthcoming Schools of Revival. It is well written and important for now. I believe God is getting the Church ready for another outpouring of the Spirit. This is a book you should have in your library.

RANDY CLARK, DMIN. Founder and President of Global Awakening and the Apostolic Network of Global Awakening Pastor John Kilpatrick and Dr. Michael Brown are uniquely qualified to speak about revival, having been used by God to spearhead one of the greatest outpourings in modern times. Together with Larry Sparks, they have written a book that manages to convey not only the principles but also the spirit of revival that indelibly marked my own life many years ago. Although the public meetings have long since ended, the fire still burns within me. *The Fire That Never Sleeps* is more than a good read—it is a catalyst for your own personal ongoing, lifelong revival.

Daniel Kolenda President and CEO, Christ for All Nations Author of *Live Before You Die*

In *The Fire That Never Sleeps*, John Kilpatrick and Michael Brown relate their passion of how, through prayer, commitment to integrity, and faithfulness over years, revival came and remained. Godly, passionate lives surrendered to the presence of the Holy Spirit can lead to sustained and nation-changing revival. Listen to these men carefully; the Brownsville Revival changed the world. And Evangelist Steve Hill is shining from the battlements of Hheaven right now with a gigantic "Amen!"

John Arnott Founding Pastor and President, Catch the Fire Author of *The Father's Blessing*

This book is a real gem. The authors have successfully revealed the crisis of compromised religion along with the call to return to normal Christianity marked by God's continual divine presence. I am a product of the Brownsville Revival and a sign of its lasting fruit. It is my pleasure to fully endorse this book as a guide to all those who long to experience the presence and glory of God.

Pastor, The Smithton Outpouring and World Revival Church

I visited the Brownsville Revival with great blessing and rejoiced in the continuing news of its progress. *Fire* is a proper identification of genuine revival. Admitting this, we acknowledge that revival is never static; it's always active and ever-changing. The fire never really goes out. The testimony of its value is in the lives around the world that were and are being altered.

The telling of the story by Michael Brown and John Kilpatrick is one of efficient explanation, honest evaluation, and inevitable celebration.

I never read the story of revival without entering into a chain reaction of memories spanning half a century of study of historic moves of God and experiencing the fire still burning.

Larry Sparks has skillfully guided this project, and John and Michael are to be commended for a work that will provide us and yet unborn generations with a story that never ends.

I have a tear in my heart as Steve Hill's face and voice still resound in my memory. His going seemed too soon to us...but living large is better than living long, and Steve truly lived large to see God's Kingdom populated. The presence of his influence touches this whole volume and is a fitting tribute to a life well lived.

JACK TAYLOR Dimensions Ministries Melbourne, Florida

THE EXERTINATE OF SUSTAINING PERSONAL REVIVAL THAT NEVER SUSTAINING PERSONAL REVIVAL THAT SEE SUSTAINING PERSONAL REVIVAL SEE SUSTAINING PERSONAL SEE SUSTAINING PERSO

MICHAEL L. BROWN & JOHN KILPATRICK WITH LARRY SPARKS

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IN MEMORY OF EVANGELIST STEVE HILL (1954-2014),

THE MAN GOD USED TO IGNITE THE BROWNSVILLE REVIVAL.

The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not go out.

—Leviticus 6:12

God's fire only falls on sacrifice. An empty altar receives no fire!

—Frank Bartleman

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FOREWORD

This book is a confronting message of Love *for*—and a humbling appeal *to*—*the Church*. The *whole* Church. Its timing is right, because we are *all* "near midnight."

Ironically, though written in love, this book is sorely at risk of being judged as negative and critical; as a splash of cold water in your face, rather than being handed to you like a Starbucks latte to ease you into another day.

I urge you—read it anyway.

It may agitate you before it comforts, or irritate before it personally concerns *you*. I join myself with that *you*, because we are *all* inclined to perceive this book's message as one "for someone else," or as "not my style."

Upon careful reflection, there are three reasons why you should engage this timely offering from Dr. Michael Brown, Pastor John Kilpatrick, and Larry Sparks, *The Fire That Never Sleeps*:

 Renewal: It serves as a personal call to renewal in both passion and repentance. There is a great need for nextgeneration leaders to consider the ministry call they are being served. While methods may change, the message is timeless. Reader, you will truly be summoned to reconsider what a New Testament discipleship lifestyle looks like and how it impacts the course of everyday living.

Discipleship demands discipline, and such discipline is not an open door into a lifestyle of legalism or joylessness. Quite the contrary, *The Fire That Never Sleeps* paints a vivid picture of how revival is nothing short of New Testament discipleship. To be a disciple of Jesus, you are, by default, *reviving* what was considered normal during the first century. You will learn how to engage powerful practices such as:

- **Prayer** that enters into the Veil and intercedes with steadfastness.
- Worship that breaks with the shallowness of mere "entertainment" and draws believers into life-changing encounters with God; a readiness to receive the Word; and a heart to live, love, and serve as "agents of the Kingdom" in their homes, neighborhoods, or workplaces—not to mention their local congregations.
- **Surrender** to the Holy Spirit's fullness—poured out to be received as a "River," overflowing with power, purity, and the pungency of "Christ in you!"
- 2. Remembrance: This work brings to my remembrance the dynamic work that God performed on a global scale during the Brownsville Revival. It brought to mind my meeting and awareness of Pastor John Kilpatrick's experience (and his sensitive and sensible pastoral leadership alongside Steve Hill). Truly, he was a pastor of revival, as he maintained a solid, scripturally wise balance amid the drama, dynamic, and demands of such a victorious advance of the Kingdom.

Foreword

John and Steve, along with Michael Brown, were a "trinity" of sorts that banded the distinct giftings of each and not only cut a swath of Kingdom ministry (people saved, healed, delivered, and then many, many entered), grew, and became established as disciples—people *following Jesus* in their walk, not simply "Getting their needs met and becoming excitable, though hardly teachable."

3. Response. This book is not merely a memorial of what "once was," but offers scriptural strategies on how to personally respond to the call of revival. The Brownsville Revival cannot be measured by how long services continued uninterrupted at Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Florida. I know some measure revival by this standard. Rather, we evaluate the full effect of revival by examining the lives of pastors, leaders, and believers who were touched by the fire and have been living on fire ever since.

This is where I must urge you, dear reader—respond correctly. There are a host of pastors across the nation who were either passé or critical toward Brownsville. They resisted the "witness" of God's great work and instead sought His presence, power, and purpose in their own congregations, believing it unnecessary to "go elsewhere to experience God." While I would agree that location is irrelevant to receiving a touch from God, humility is essential.

Many excused their passivity and criticism as their effort to "avoid extremism." In turn, they assumed an extreme posture of either suspicion or scorn concerning

such a move of God—never bothering to *look* into the actualities of the revival or their own need as leaders to give a larger place to the Holy Spirit's move being welcomed in their own lives and their congregations.

Response is everything, as it directly impacts what we receive from God.

It was nearly fifty years ago—in reading a book that probed my soul in ways similar to this one—that I learned this "sensible thing": It is absolutely essential to remain aware of my vulnerability to becoming a Pharisee. They were a breed of religious leaders, doubtlessly sincere, but also had become so fixated on their presumed "absolute correctness and purity," in understanding and style of dutifully "doing" service for God, that they never really understood God in Person. Consequently, when God showed up personally, in His Son Jesus Christ, His confrontation with their "style"—however dedicated—was rejection, and God Himself was thereby unable to influence, help, or shape these "righteous experts" beyond the "patterns of their perfection."

To my view, the spirit prompting *The Fire That Never Sleeps* is the same spirit, and with the same spiritual passion as earlier voices to the Church like Leonard Ravenhill, Vance Havner, David Wilkerson, and, presently, Jim Cymbala. Such voices—though often boldly and forthrightly *calling out* those who know Christ yet linger behind Him unwittingly or with known indifference—are essential to us all.

Such messengers, as well as the message here, are not given to lash, but to lead us—to point freshly to our *Savior*, to a kneeling again to honor Him as *Lord*, and as the soon-to-return Bridegroom of the Church. The objective is benevolent—the directness of speech targeted only to seek the fruitfulness of those who love Him

and our readiness to meet Him without shame at His appearing. Accordingly, I perceive nothing in this book intending self-righteous criticism or condescension. However, there *is* a forthright candor that cuts at our flesh with a trumpet-like alert that will disallow casual hearing and prohibit drowsiness or sleep.

However, the issues addressed here are needed by us all. Nothing has become more commonly blurred or lost, in the culture at large as well as in the Church, as a clear-eyed, discerning perspective on the difference between *style* and *substance*. This is no insult to anyone's intelligence; it's a liability that often takes a "shock treatment" to call us back to "Go!" To the "Go" in Jesus's Commission, which is richer and deeper in scope and substance than commonly seen today.

And as needful as the "comfort" of God's Spirit is—as "the Comforter" is preferred—He is just as adept at *convicting* as He is at consoling us...and we need *both*.

As for *this* book, at age 28—early in my pastoral/teaching ministry—it was one very much like this one that became pivotal to my life to this very day. It ignited a passion, but it also instructed toward a pathway. I learned that I needed to be slow to dismiss speakers or writers who were not to my taste or style. If their words or ways irritated me (or "burned me up") I need to "tune in before I turned them off."

I learned that the heat of a flame that burns your fingers can't be held, but it will get your full attention; and, however unpleasant the burn, the outcome may very well cause you to handle things more cautiously and wisely than you did before. Such "temporary burns" can awaken a *sensitivity* that can shape a lifetime of deeper *sensibility*.

This book's pages strongly brought the following four scriptural statements to mind, riveting my personal sense of renewed accountability and sensitivity to take heed with faithfulness, humility, and dependency on God to keep the fire burning:

You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting (Daniel 5:27).

And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, "These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you." (Revelation 3:1-3 NKJV).

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed (Romans 13:11 NKJV).

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise,

Foreword

be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen (Jude 20-25 NKJV).

So, as I learned at 28, it remains as I have stepped into my 80s. I have read, and here, once more, urge you to do the same. I believe you'll be bettered for having read *The Fire That Never Sleeps*.

Yes, there is a Fire that never sleeps...and I believe you'll become more deeply aware, fully alert and adequately assisted to live in its warmth, light, and energy for having read the pages before you.

Let us go on!

Pastor Jack Hayford Chancellor and founder, The Kings University President of International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, 2004-2009 Founding Pastor, Church on the Way, Van Nuys CA

INTRODUCTION



DR. MICHAEL BROWN

As I taught on the subject of revival in the years leading up to Brownsville, I used definitions of revival that other leaders had coined, including things like, "Revival is God stepping down from Heaven," but I never came up with my own definition until teaching a class on revival at the Brownsville Revival School of Ministry. While not catchy, it does reflect my understanding of this critically important subject. Here's my working definition: "Revival is a season of unusual divine visitation resulting in deep repentance, supernatural renewal, and sweeping reformation in the Church, along with the radical conversion of sinners in the world, often producing moral, social, and even economic change in the local or national communities."

But what does revival look and feel like? Let me take you into a service from Brownsville so you can experience the sights and sounds of revival. Here's what I wrote in *The Revival Answer Book* (originally titled *Let No One Deceive You*). On Friday night, January 31, 1997, I returned from a service at the Brownsville Revival at

1:30 A.M. and was moved to write these words. They were written with an unusual urgency and intensity. No doubt you will sense it as you read.

I want to share my heart honestly with you, holding nothing back. I want to make myself totally vulnerable. The fact is, I *must*.

I have just come from the beautiful presence of the Lord, from a night of glorious baptismal testimonies and incredible stories of wonderfully changed lives; a night of sovereign visitation; a night of deep, sweeping repentance, of radical encounters with the living God, of public acts of repentance—from young people throwing their drugs and needles into the garbage to old people discarding their cigarettes; a night of weeping under conviction and rejoicing in newfound freedom; a night when the Spirit fell upon the children in a side room until their intercession and wailing permeated the sanctuary; a night when Jesus was exalted in the midst of His Church. Yes, I have come from the holy presence of the Lord at Brownsville Revival on January 31, 1997. The Spirit moved; the tears flowed; the Lord touched; the demons fled. This is what happens when revival is in the land!

At the end of the night, amid shouts of joy and victory, amid the sound of the newly redeemed enjoying their first moments free from captivity, I turned to my dear friend Evangelist Steve Hill and said, "We don't have to quote from the history books about revival. It's here! We're seeing it before our eyes."

Who can describe a night like this? Who can describe what it is like to be so caught up with God that Heaven

Introduction

is virtually here and you can almost sense the sound of the Judge knocking at the door? What can you say when young men come to the platform and begin to throw away their earrings, and another wants counsel because he doesn't know how to remove his *eyebrow* ring, and another tosses out his condoms, while another throws his knife into the trash? What can you say?

What can you say when a thousand people respond to the altar call and stay there for two hours getting right with God? What can you say when the prayers you have prayed for your nation, prayers for the real thing, for genuine visitation, for bona fide outpouring—not hype, not sensationalism, not a superficial show, but an awakening of historic proportions—when those prayers are being answered before your eyes and you know that your country will be *shaken*? What can you say?

What can you say when all you want is Jesus, when pleasing Him is your total delight, when you just have to tell everyone about God's great salvation, when sin's sweetest temptation is utterly repulsive to you, when you just can't find the words to express to the Lord how utterly wonderful He is, how He really is your all in all? What can you say at a sacred time like this? It is too precious to fully describe, too intimate to wholly communicate with mere human speech.

That was just one night in the midst of *years* of intense visitation, although, to be sure, it was an especially glorious night.

The problem, of course, is that it is not humanly possible to sustain something of such intensity over a long period of time, and even though the outpouring continued for the better part of five

years, we were constantly thinking about long-term fruit. What happens to those in the revival today? Where will they be in five, or ten, or twenty years? And if God has given so much to us, how can we be good stewards and be sure that we pour back out what He has poured into us?

It was in that light that God gave me the vision to launch the Brownsville Revival School of Ministry in 1996, within weeks of getting involved in the revival myself, and it was a vision deeply affirmed by Pastor Kilpatrick, Steve Hill, and the other key leaders. We opened our doors in January 1997, and, by God's grace, now as FIRE School of Ministry, we continue to raise up and send out laborers to the nations.

Here's just a sampling of the some of the lasting fruit that came from the revival, evidenced in the lives of these ministry school graduates who are making a wonderful impact for Jesus around the globe. I wrote this on Saturday night, October 17, 2014, in the midst of our fifteenth annual missions conference at FIRE:

We have all heard the bad news from the Middle East and have grieved over the onslaught of ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Well, the good news is that we have two families and several singles serving in northern Iraq, and in the midst of the chaos and upheaval, a powerful prayer movement has been birthed.

Not only so, but as refugees have poured into the region, there has been an unprecedented openness to hear the Gospel.

Sick bodies are being healed, lost sinners are being saved, and believers are being strengthened.

We don't hear that in the nightly news.

Introduction

You've also heard about the murderous rampage of Boko Haram in northern Nigeria.

One of our courageous, single female missionaries works with impoverished children, including Muslim children who are coming for education, some very near the Boko Haram territories. She is convinced that as the kids are educated they will be elevated, especially since they are receiving a biblical education, and that will be the best answer to radical Islam.

We heard reports from members of our large team in the Philippines. They are planting churches in rural, unreached regions, where the people only know traditional religion. They are caring for orphans, feeding needy children, starting discipleship training schools, and fighting against human trafficking. Recently, they were able to help a two-year-old girl whose mother had sold her into sex trafficking. The stories go on and on.

Another grad showed a powerful video of Muslims coming to faith in large meetings he held in Pakistan.

We heard great reports about large youth rallies in Italy, where less than 1 percent of the native population is bornagain. Doors have also opened in high schools for teams to share the Gospel, and the owner of a casino in Italy actually facilitated a Gospel outreach in front of his building. Jesus is Lord!

Some grads take multiday trips and hike for hours into the Andes Mountains in Peru to reach the lost, while others reach out to hopeless souls in a neglected town in England, and still others have been pelted with stones preaching the Gospel in Mexico.

Others reach out to the prostitutes in Tanzania, providing a home for them where they can be grounded in the Lord and kept safe. (That's just one of the many ministries our grads have birthed in Tanzania.)

Another grad just launched a FIRE School in Cameroon, and another opened one in Holland (the home of legalized prostitution, marijuana, same-sex "marriage," euthanasia, and much more), with other schools about to be birthed in other nations.

One grad has learned how to present the Gospel in culturally relevant cartoons that work for both the literate and illiterate. (In the past she worked with lepers in China and is now going to Southeast Asia.) Recently, a 103-year-old woman reading one of her cartoon books came to saving faith and now, at 104, loves to share the Gospel and worship.

Still other grads are taking orphans into their own homes and doing creative children's outreach where they can preach freely. One grad in India, together with her Indian husband, has started orphanages, children's schools, and ministry schools; planted churches; and conducted annual outreach services that draw as many as 60,000 Indians, the vast majority of them Hindus.

Some live and minister in the Buddhist world in countries like Thailand. Others labor in Japan, where large evangelical churches are almost unheard of, and still others start new works in Canada.

Our grads in Israel are involved in prayer movements, serving the poor and hurting, reaching out to nonbelieving Jews and Arabs and working toward reconciliation in the Messiah.

Introduction

And then there are our faithful missionaries serving in parts of the Muslim world that we cannot disclose, as well as in other closed countries worldwide.

When one of our missionaries leaves his family each day, he says, "I'll see you tonight, or in Heaven," and he cannot stay in some major cities for more than twenty-four hours before the assassins are on his trail.

Another grad was martyred by Muslim terrorists (I cannot be specific for numerous reasons), and his widow (and the mother of their kids) continues to burn bright and do outreach here in America.

And speaking of America, where the needs are great as well, grads are making effective inroads into human trafficking in cities like Charlotte, North Carolina, with regular rescues, lots of proactive education, and the business community beginning to take a stand for righteousness.

Words fail me when I seek to describe what these precious men and women are doing, some with large families and others without; some in their seventies and others in their early twenties; some in the field now for more than fifteen years, many of them working among the poorest of the poor or taking the Gospel into the business world, all of them glorifying Jesus.

And I remind you: This is just a tiny sampling of the fruit that I know of firsthand. The great majority of fruit that the Brownsville Revival produced will only be counted in Heaven. It is vast, it is long-lasting, and it is powerful. Should we expect anything less?

INTRODUCTION



PASTOR JOHN KILPATRICK

Pevival and resurrection are two different things. With a resurrection, there is *no* life. Someone is actually being raised from death to life. With revival, it's different. Resurrection is for the dead, but those who are still living need *revival*. They may be comatose and showing very faint signs of life. Their vitals might look very poor—even dismal. Their prognosis may be extremely negative, *but* if there is still any kind life, there is hope for revival. The same is true for the Church and the world today. The landscape may appear dark, but it's not dead. There is still *hope for revival*.

When we started praying for revival at Brownsville, I *knew* the Lord was going to do something. I was confident He was going to pour out His Spirit. He is faithful to respond to the hungry and He is trustworthy to answer the cries of His people. The Bible tells us this, time after time.

Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the

showers, as the spring rains that water the earth (Hosea 6:3).

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7).

He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you (Isaiah 30:19).

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:13).

Historically God has answered the desperate cries of His people. This is what caused me to be filled with expectation as our church family at Brownsville Assembly of God cried out for revival. In fact, the Lord told me that as we made His house a *house of prayer*, He would pour out His Spirit in a powerful way. This is exactly what happened.

What took place on Father's Day—June 18, 1995—exceeded my expectations. Yes, He is the God who answers prayers. At the same time, He is also the God of Ephesians 3:20, "who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (NIV). Revival is truly an over-answer to prayer.

Over the years, I had spent a considerable amount of time studying the great past revivals and revivalists. Even back then, I would have identified as a student of revival. Though I studied the great moves of God, I never thought I would get to participate in such a historic outpouring of the Spirit. I had no idea that what our church community was praying for would be fulfilled in such a large way.

When I thought of *revival*, my limited imagination conceived of maybe six, seven, or eight weeks of meetings where people were saved, delivered, and baptized in the Holy Spirit. I had no idea that it would last for five years. I had no idea that what happened in our

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midst at Brownsville would have such far-reaching implications. I had *no* idea that to this day, men and women would be powerfully advancing the Kingdom of God all across the world because the fires of revival touched them in Pensacola, Florida, from 1995 to 2000. I had one idea of what revival looked like; God clearly had another.

In view of how God moved at Brownsville, I invite you to do everything you know how to do in seeking revival. Are you hungry for the move of His Spirit? Then cry out. Pray. Ask...and keep asking. He *will* respond; but know that the God who responds to the cries of His people is also the God of more than enough. He wants to over-answer your prayers, too.

Up until revival broke out, I had a completely different paradigm of what church should look like. Everything changed because the Holy Spirit powerfully introduced us to His agenda—His order for church. After revival, I was ruined for "church as usual," based on the way things had always been done. Revival reintroduces church not according to man's protocol, but to God's presence.

I also discovered that John Wesley's words are profoundly true: When you catch on fire, people will come to watch you burn. In our case, it was an entire church community that caught on fire. As a result, the nations came to see what was happening. This was completely beyond anything I could have imagined.

I saw people hungry and desperate for God unlike I had ever seen before.

I saw spiritual hunger among different races, nationalities, and ethnicities.

I saw sinners—people who did *not* even know Jesus—show up outside the church, waiting in long lines for the doors to open.

I saw airplanes landing at our small local airport, unloading people from all over the world who were desperate to be touched by God.

People with no spiritual background whatsoever were streaming to the revival. How could this be? Jesus's timeless words bring everything into perspective: "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself" (John 12:32 NLT).

As the Holy Spirit illuminated this Scripture to my heart, what was happening in our midst started to make more sense. As Jesus was being exalted in the worship, in testimony, and in preaching, the Spirit of God was drawing saints and sinners alike to that place. For burnt out, weary, and backslidden believers, the Holy Spirit brought a great refreshing. For those lost in sin, addiction, and bondage, the Spirit brought mighty salvation and deliverance.

We did not need to advertise or promote the revival. This was long before the era of social media and live-streaming. At the time, the Internet was still new. Even though we didn't have access to all the media options available today, word still got around and millions came. I discovered that you don't need television, marketing, Internet, or news media to attract people when the Holy Spirit is truly moving in power. His presence and fire are enough.

In this book, I trust that the Holy Spirit will set your heart ablaze, for it is the Spirit alone who can make a heart burn for revival. Only the Holy Spirit can cause your heart to yearn for revival, and, likewise, it is only the Spirit who can satisfy such a deep yearning.

The pages you are about to read are purposed to ignite your heart to burn for revival, for it is revival that is the answer to the ills of the Church and the world. There is still hope for a landscape-changing move of God's Spirit. Remember, where there is still life, there is the possibility of revival.

Introduction

We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work (John 9:4).

Let's burn brightly while it is still day so others can catch this fire, and revival will transition into a national awakening. This is truly what happens when the *fire never sleeps*.

CHAPTER 1



THE FIRE THAT NEVER SLEEPS

LARRY SPARKS

God is a consuming fire.

The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of fire.

And Jesus said, "I've come to bring fire on earth."

There is no escaping fire.

—LEONARD RAVENHILL

od is looking for a people who will keep His fire burning upon the altar of their hearts.

Such a people are not satisfied with an intense spiritual experience or an emotional moment; they desire to walk a sustained lifestyle of personal revival.

This is exactly why we have all come together to present you with this book. Dr. Michael Brown and Pastor John Kilpatrick

were key leaders in one of the greatest moves of God to ever grace North America—the Brownsville Revival. From 1995 to 2000, Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Florida, was a center for spiritual renewal that attracted pilgrims from across the earth.

When we decide that *true revival* is what takes place outside the four walls of a church or meeting center, we are one step closer to sustaining a lifestyle of passion and zeal for Jesus.

During the course of the revival, roughly 4.5 million people from around the world converged upon Pensacola to attend the revival services at Brownsville Assembly of God. It is also estimated that hundreds of thousands of people responded to the altar calls and either gave their hearts to Christ for the first time or rededicated their lives to Jesus. The outstanding number of conversions, by itself, marks this revival as a most significant spiritual movement. That's not it, though. While thousands came to Christ, countless others came *back* to Christ. Their fire for God was reignited. As a result, Brownsville launched a missionary movement that is still impacting nations across the earth today. The leaders were not content to contain the revival or even to keep it restricted to the southeast United States.

In response to this historic move of God, a school was birthed that continues to carry the fire of God to the nations today. The Brownsville Revival School of Ministry—now Fire School of Ministry—ensured that the fire of God did not remain in one geographic place. When fire spreads, it can't sleep. When we decide that *true revival* is what takes place outside the four walls of a

church or meeting center, we are one step closer to sustaining a lifestyle of passion and zeal for Jesus.

A VISION FOR A REVIVED LIFESTYLE

Throughout the pages to come, we are not simply recounting stories about what God did *back then* during Brownsville. That would be easy. While such an approach might get people excited and provide some nostalgia about "the good old days," it keeps us distant from the potential of the present. Revival is not something that happened in the 1800s during the Great Awakenings, or in the early 1900s with the Azusa Street Revival, or even in the 1990s during the Brownsville Revival or Toronto Blessing. What we define as *revival* is God's pattern for normal Christianity. We *will* be sharing stories and testimonies, but with purpose. They are intended to give you a clear vision of what revival should ignite in our lives.

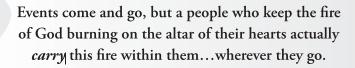
Rather than just memorializing a movement, we are presenting a vision for what a lifestyle of *sustained personal revival* looks like. More than anything, we want to give you a practical plan for how you can live on fire for God when your world, your surroundings, your environment, your job, your school, your community, your family, and maybe even your church are not encouraging your walk with Him. Truth be told, regardless of where everyone else is in their pursuit of God, your relationship with Him is your responsibility. I have heard it said that you are as close to God as you want to be. Likewise, you are as revived as you want to be.

THE DAYS WE ARE LIVING IN

We certainly live in dark days. It doesn't take prophetic eyesight to see that evil appears to be prevailing in the world around us.

While some observe this darkness as a summons to hopelessness and defeat, we look to the assuring promises of Scripture:

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising (Isaiah 60:1-3).



This is not your time to retreat; it is your time to *arise and shine*! How will this *arising*| take place? Simple—when Christians decide that revival should *not*| be limited to a special church service, meeting, or certain flavor of spirituality. Revival as an event will *not*| suffice anymore. Events come and go, but a people who keep the fire of God burning on the altar of their hearts actually *carry*| this fire within them...wherever they go. At this point, the fire becomes transferrable.

RELEASING BURNING ONES

As wonderful as revival meetings, services, conferences, and events are, they all exist for a purpose. Services are never the end goal; transformation is. Meetings and events are means to accomplish an end, and the end is you carrying the power and presence of God into your unique sphere of influence, *wherever* that may be.

The Fire That Never Sleeps

God is looking to release His burning ones into every arena of society—not to overthrow, but to serve as His ambassadors.

The key word is *release*.



When the presence of God divinely visits a specific location, it is for the purpose of making a deposit. He wants to expose people to a glimpse of what normal looks like.

Revival remains contained when it stays within the context of a local church. As much as we desire—and need—revived churches, the end vision for revival should not be more people sitting in buildings but rather more people serving in the "streets" of society. Again, these "streets" represent wherever God has placed you: the business world, education, the medical profession, the arts, media, government, politics, law, entertainment, and, most important, your own household and family. We want to see the fire of God leave a measurable mark on how we do life. The ultimate evaluation of whether revival was a "success" has little to do with how long church services or meetings continue uninterrupted in one region or venue for a certain period of time. This is actually a small part of revival. Yes, sooner or later the meetings die down and the church services go from every night, to three times a week, to back to normal. Never let these factors determine whether revival was a success. Find the people who were present during the Brownsville Revival and ask them about the life changes they experienced—and are still experiencing to this very day. When the presence of God divinely visits a specific location, it is for the purpose of making a deposit. He wants to expose people to a glimpse of what normal looks like.

No, normal is not sustained church services; it is most clearly represented by the lives of those who came into revival one way and left another. Normal is sustained, continuous transformation into the image of Christ, from glory to glory (see 2 Cor. 3:18). Normal is not perfection; it's pursuit. Normal is living your everyday life under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Normal is saying yes to God in every season and situation, no matter what He asks. Normal is praying for the sick and tormented, and believing that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives inside you—and is able to bring wholeness to the afflicted. Normal is going against the rising tide of culture and yielding to the conviction of the Holy Spirit.



Awakening is not out with the old and in with the new; it's out with the dry, stale, formal way of "doing church" and *in* with the normal expression of Christianity as revealed in the Book of Acts.

Revival is all about escorting us out of religion, dryness, and spiritual lethargy, and ushering us into "normal" as defined by Jesus.

Revival is about stewarding the deposit of divine visitation. When God comes, it's not for the sake of hype and excitement. He comes to show us what life *really is*.

Revival is actually living out what we see pictured in Leviticus 6:12—"The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not go out." God made the ultimate deposit in His people when He gave us the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The great question is: What will we do with His Spirit and fire within us?

BE THE OUTPOURING

We need something fresh in the Church today. We can't continue on with business as usual. Many talk of renewal, revival, and outpouring. The question is *where is this nation-shaking move of God going to come from*? Are we waiting for something new to come down out from Heaven, or are we pressing in for a great awakening of global proportion?



We don't need another Holy Spirit; we need to yield our lives to the One who already lives within us.

Awakening is not out with the old and in with the new; it's out with the dry, stale, formal way of "doing church" and in with the normal expression of Christianity as revealed in the Book of Acts. It's time to carefully evaluate what we—in our sophisticated twentyfirst century world—have embraced as the "normal Christian life," and to measure it beside the timeless standards of Jesus, His disciples, and the early Church. Methods change over time, but the message cannot be compromised. They did not employ the latest gimmicks to entice prospective followers; nor did they have technology that arrested both the eyes and ears in some kind of visceral experience. Their source of power and effectiveness was in the very person of the Holy Spirit. Even with everything we have access to in contemporary Christianity, we must ask the question: Are we drawing from the endless supernatural well of the Holy Spirit, or are we trying to manufacture an experience using our own methods? At the day's end, nothing man creates can compare to or substitute for the Spirit's presence in our midst.

Here is the glorious news: God has already sent the Holy Spirit to us, which means that Act 2 is still sufficient for us today! The person and power of Pentecost is our great inheritance! We don't need an upgraded Holy Spirit. In Romans 8:11, Paul makes it clear that "the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you." This statement never fails to fill me with awe for the One who has made our hearts His dwelling place. We don't need another Holy Spirit; we need to yield our lives to the One who already lives within us. *This is awakening*. Too many Christians are waiting for some kind of new spiritual experience, when instead we need to rediscover how to steward what we have already received.

In and of themselves, experiences are not bad—in fact, they are quite necessary. They often jump-start us. They awaken us to the higher reality of the Christian life. Usually it is through our experiences with God that our eyes are opened to what we were missing *before* the experience. In a moment, we are able to measure the mediocrity of our present Christian life beside a mere touch of God's glory and power. It's amazing how just a glimpse of the authentic stirs a desire within us to completely abandon the mediocre. The key is learning how to *always* set the Lord before us, just as David wrote in Psalm 16:8.

I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

David had many life-changing encounters with God. His personal history is absolutely filled with incredible miracles and testimonies of the Lord's mighty power. And yet this shepherd/king—the man after God's own heart—did not wait around for another experience before He sought God. In his joy, in his pain, in his sorrow, and in his confusion, Scripture shows us a man who decided to set the Lord *always* before Him.

In short, David was a man who said yes to God. Even when he fell into grievous sin, he said yes to God through repentance.

REVIVAL STARTS WITH YOUR EXYESE

Just like David, we celebrate the landmark moments in our spiritual histories. We must, as they are essential and catalytic. They take us from one level to the next. It is no coincidence that Paul describes the process as moving from *glory to glory* in Second Corinthians 3:18. True revival is profoundly glorious because it possesses the capacity to take people—be it an individual, a church, or even an entire community—from one level of the Christian experience to another.

There have been many definitions assigned to *revival* over the years. For the sake of our journey here, I want us to think of it in terms of a reintroduction to normal. This is exactly how Dr. Michael Brown and Pastor John Kilpatrick observe it. Dr. Brown described revival as "a season of unusual divine visitation resulting in deep repentance, supernatural renewal, and sweeping reformation in the Church, along with the radical conversion of sinners in the world, often producing moral, social, and even economic change in the local or national communities." Pastor Kilpatrick explains that revival is "not church as usual." In fact, revival exchanges the old "usual" for a new "usual." When revival comes, some of what accompanies it would be considered "abnormal" or "unusual." Why? It's been so long since these things were *usual* in the Church and in our lives that we have labeled them as unusual. By God's grace, the unusual is starting to become usual again!

A few things that revival is *not*:

Revival is *not* a series of special meetings at church.

Revival is *not* what a church does a few times a year to simply draw in new converts (although we celebrate true conversions when they take place).

Revival is *not* about the unusual, physical manifestations that tend to happen when people are "touched by the Holy Spirit."

Great Christian author A. W. Tozer made this most relevant observation about praying for revival: "Have you noticed how much praying for revival has been going on of late—and how little revival has resulted? I believe the problem is that we have been trying to substitute praying for obeying, and it simply will not work."

Yes, this book is designed to stir your passion to pray for revival. In fact, our hope is that your prayers for revival become richer, most impassioned, and deeper than ever before. But perhaps even more, our vision is to help you position yourself to *become* the revival that the Church is praying for and that this world so desperately needs. For us to become an expression of revival on the earth, we must say an unqualified yes to everything Jesus requires from us. That's it, right there—the key to living a lifestyle of sustained, personal revival. It all begins with our willingness to say yes to anything and everything the Lord asks of us. It's about saying yes to His word, His ways, and His direction. In view of who God is, how could we offer up any other response?

For some, praying for revival has become one prayer request among many others. We pray for revival in the church and then we go on to pray for our friends who have lost their jobs. Revival is not something we can take or leave. A day is coming when four songs, a sermon, and an offering simply will not work anymore. Perhaps this model has been functional for a season, but in an hour of deep darkness, we need to be a people who carry the light of the Kingdom. This will only happen as Christians live *revival lifestyles*.

The Fire That Never Sleeps

In the pages ahead, you will catch a vision of what true revival looks like. I am also convinced that the anointed reflections and powerful testimonies will awaken within you a desperate hunger *for* revival. Yes, you keep praying—but such prayer is not passive. It is obedient. It contends. It cries out. It is not about strong-arming God into doing something or manipulating Him into sending some new outpouring. The Holy Spirit is here. Now it's time to give this precious One the ultimate "yes" in every area of your life.

Prayer for revival starts with being so gripped by Heaven's vision of the Christian life that everything you have embraced as normal becomes unacceptable, and you start pressing in for everything Jesus made available to you.

Open your heart.

Be expectant.

You aren't just reading words; I am confident you are receiving an impartation.

Get ready to take your place as one who keeps the fire burning!

PART ONE

OUR PRESENT CONDITION

DR. MICHAEL BROWN

Where are we as a church? What shape are we in as the saints of God? Are we fulfilling the Great Commission and drawing from the rich well of our spiritual inheritance in Christ, or are we settling for a substandard redefinition of Christianity that has been polluted and compromised by popular culture?

Revival is not "out with the old and in with the new." I've heard it said that it's "out with the old and in with the even older." To experience revival, we need to recognize the difference between what was considered normal for Jesus and His followers and where we are today.

Only when we honestly confront our present condition can we truly cry out for holy visitation and divine transformation. This cry is awakened as we simply discover that where we currently *are* is *not* what God has made available to us.

There is more!

Today, we have a Christianity made easy as an accommodation to an age that is unwilling to face the implication of Calvary, and the gospel of "simply believism" has produced a harvest of professions which have done untold harm to the cause of Christ.

—DUNCAN CAMPBELL

Do you have a hunger for God? If we don't feel strong desires for the manifestation of the glory of God, it is not because we have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because we have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Our soul is stuffed with small things, and there is no room for the great.

—John Piper

The world has lost the power to blush over its vice; the Church has lost her power to weep over it.

—LEONARD RAVENHILL

CHAPTER 2



WHO CHANGED THINGS?

There is exceedingly much difference between what ought be and what is.

—Charles Spurgeon

Who changed things from the vibrant, Spirit-empowered "by life or by death" faith of the New Testament to today's spineless home-and-garden Sunday-morning religion?

Who changed things from "Leave everything and follow Me" (see Luke 14:33) to "Pray this little prayer and you're set for eternity"?

Who changed things from "All who live godly lives in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (see 2 Tim. 3:12) to "Ask Jesus into your heart and enjoy a comfortable life"?

Who changed things from a fearless proclamation of the truth, whatever the cost or consequences, to a watered-down, compromised message that is afraid to offend anyone?

By what authority, by whose decree, based on what new revelation have we so blatantly departed from the faith of the apostles? Who changed things?

Who changed things from the New Testament faith, where even the disciples couldn't minister without the Spirit's enduement, to today's version, where whole ministries are run with hardly any evidence of the Spirit's work?

As A.W. Tozer once said,

"If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference."

This remains true of most of the contemporary church in the West.

Who changed things from a God-centered faith to a man-centered faith, from "Take up your cross and deny yourself" to "Bypass the cross and empower yourself"?

Who changed things from holiness being beautiful to holiness being bondage, and from the early Church being known for its high standards to the contemporary Church being known for its scandals?

Who changed things from the people of God being a threat to the powers of darkness to the people of God being active participants in darkness?

Who Changed Things?

In the early church, Paul instructed the Corinthians to separate themselves from people who claimed to be believers but were living in outward, unrepentant sin (see 1 Cor. 5). Today, some of those people lead our churches and preach from our pulpits. Who changed things?

Who changed things from a faith that was so focused on the life of Jesus and so infused with the reality of His death and resurrection that no sacrifice was considered too great and no act of service too extreme—to the contrary, suffering for Him was considered a privilege (see Matt. 5:10-12, Acts 5:41, Phil. 1:29)—to today's convenience-store Christianity, where we have to "sell" salvation to the sinner by spicing up the deal with perks and benefits?

When did Jesus stop being enough?

When did obedience become an option?

When did keeping God's commandments out of love for Him become "religious" (in the negative sense of the word)? Didn't Jesus say that if we loved Him, we would keep His commandments (see John 14:15, 21)?

Who changed things?

If we belonged to another religion that claimed to have other books that supplemented the Bible or traditions that superseded it, that would be one thing.

But we don't. We believe the Scriptures alone are God's Word and that nothing that comes after the Scriptures—no tradition, no alleged revelation, no consensus—can undermine or countermand the written Word of God.

So who changed things from the biblical version of the Jesus faith to the modern American version?

We can debate church history and blame this group or that group, and we can point out what's wrong with this denomination and that denomination. We might even have some great historical and contemporary insights.

But unless we get back to believing what is written and acting on what is written, we will continue to perpetuate our merry-go-round Christianity with lots of noise and action and bells and whistles but with little authority, little purity, and little effect (if any).

I didn't get the memo that God's Word and Spirit were not enough, and I'm far more concerned with what He says than with what the latest polls say.

Really, now, since when did the Lord command us to fashion our preaching and our style of worship and even the way we look based on what's trending?

If some church leaders choose to trust in worldly business models and carnal consulting firms, that's their choice. I say we go with the power of the name of Jesus and the wisdom of the Word of God and the fullness of the Spirit. I say we go with the New Testament model, applied with boldness and compassion to the needs of the day.

Years ago, Leonard Ravenhill said, "One of these days some simple soul will pick up the Book of God, read it, and believe it. Then the rest of us will be embarrassed."

I want to be that simple soul. How about you?

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ABOUT JOHN KILPATRICK

John Kilpatrick was blessed to experience firsthand the Glory of God as Holy Spirit entrusted him with the pastoral oversight of the historic Brownsville Revival in Pensacola, Florida and the Bay Revival in Mobile, Alabama. He currently serves as the founder and senior pastor of Church of His Presence in Daphne, Alabama. He also travels extensively across the nation spreading the fires of revival and impacts churches around the world through media ministry. With nearly fifty years of pastoral ministry, twenty-two of which included his ministry at Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Florida, he and his wife Brenda are fulfilling their apostolic call by helping to establish churches and mentoring ministers. His hunger and passion for God's presence awakens and stirs the hearts of many to cry out for a move of God.

ENCOUNTER. ACTIVATE. TRANSFORM.

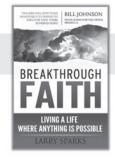
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LARRY SPARKS is a speaker, curriculum director for Destiny Image Publishers, revivalist, and columnist for *Charisma Magazine*. Featured on CBN, TBN, and Sid Roth's *It's Supernatural*, Larry is passionate about raising up communities who usher in regional revival and awakening. He is committed to training the body of Christ through one of his 3 TRANSFORMATIVE SEMINARS:

- 1. IGNITING A REVIVAL LIFESTYLE: Ideal for churches and conferences. Larry shares vital keys and transformative principles from revivalists and great awakening movements from throughout history—some popular and some that are hardly known about. From the birth of the New Testament Church until today, the Holy Spirit has been summoning the people of God back to a lifestyle marked by the presence and power of Jesus! The lessons you learn will help you experience God's supernatural power—personally and corporately—and sustain it, so revival can move beyond the church and become reformation!
- 2. REVIVAL IN MEDIA: Perfect for college campuses, schools of ministry, and arts schools. This seminar will equip Christians who believe they have been called into arts and media—film, music, art, theatre, dance, TV, writing. They will learn how to practically carry the creative presence of the Holy Spirit into that sphere of influence and become ambassadors for the Kingdom of God who change atmospheres through their work. It's not about Christians making more "Christian media." Instead, it's about Spirit-filled, Kingdom ambassadors representing the nature and character of God by releasing revival in media!
- 3. BREAKTHROUGH FAITH: This series will equip everyday Christians to practically put the Word of God to work in their lives and position themselves to experience sustained breakthrough. Jesus defined the normal Christian life as one where His followers not only received miracles; they actually released miracles that transformed the circumstances and environments around them! The secret to walking out this lifestyle is not some formula, blueprint or gimmick: it's about stepping into new levels of intimacy with God and enjoying greater access to the Holy Spirit's manifest Presence. From that foundation, you will build a lifestyle of victory by putting time-tested, Biblical truths to work and start walking in breakthrough faith!

You can visit Larry's website at lawrencesparks.com. Also, you can "like" Larry on Facebook (LarryVSparks) and Twitter (@LarryVSparks) to receive empowerment keys to experience and sustain a revival lifestyle.

BREAKTHROUGH FAITH



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