It Is the Time for Awakening!

The awakening of the heart, not of the crowd

Many believers are waiting for a great revival, in which multitudes of people will turn to Christ. They think of the day of Pentecost when, after Peter's sermon, the people "were pierced to the heart" and "about three thousand souls were added to the number of the disciples" (Acts 2:37, 41). The desire is a good one, but Scripture does not describe the last days as a time of mass revivals. It speaks of “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;” (2 Thessalonians 2:3), of people who have "only a form of godliness" but deny its power (2 Timothy 3:5), and of a love that "will grow cold" in most people (Matthew 24:12).

We are living in times of general apostasy. And yet it is the time for awakening, though not of the crowd, but of the heart. The call is addressed to each person individually: “Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.” (Ephesians 5:14).

Has there ever been a true beginning?

To the church in Sardis the Lord said: “And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.” (Revelation 3:1-2). So it is possible to bear the name of a believer and to attend the meetings without having the life of God. That is why awakening begins with a simple yet difficult question: has there ever been a true beginning in my life?

The Lord Jesus said: “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3). Being born again is not a decision made in a single evening, nor is it enrolling in a church; it is the work of God, who makes a person "a new creation", in whom “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17). And a true birth is seen by its fruit.

The apostle Paul urges us: “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” (2 Corinthians 13:5). The First Epistle of John gives us the signs by which this examination is to be made. The one born of God no longer lives in sin (1 John 3:9). He knows God, and the proof is that he keeps His commandments (1 John 2:3). He loves the brethren: “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.” (1 John 3:14). And he has the Spirit of Christ, for “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit

of Christ, he is none of his." (Romans 8:9).

In the school of Christ

Whoever has been born of God enters the school of Christ as a disciple. The Lord calls us: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matthew 11:29). A disciple is not merely someone who listens to sermons, but one who learns to live like his Teacher: "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." (1 John 2:6).

The Lord set clear conditions: "Whoever does not carry his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple" and "whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:27, 33). And the mark of a true disciple is steadfastness: "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;" (John 8:31). The awakening of the heart brings us face to face with these questions. Do I deny myself, or do I defend my rights? Am I learning the meekness and humility of Christ, or am I the same person I was ten years ago? Is likeness to Him growing in me?

In the body that belongs to Christ

A disciple does not grow alone. The Lord Jesus said: "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18). His Church is not a building or an organisation, but His living body, to which each member is added by God: "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47). You do not enter this body by enrolling, but by the Spirit: "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:13).

That is why we must ask ourselves in all sincerity: am I in a Church built by the Lord, or in a congregation built by men? "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." (Psalm 127:1). A congregation can be full and active, yet dead, like Sardis. It is not enough to belong to a church; you must truly belong to Christ.

The certainty that we are children of God

These questions are not meant to throw us into doubt, but to lead us to assurance: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." (1 John 5:13). This certainty does not come from a feeling, but from the witness of the Spirit, who "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:" (Romans 8:16), and from a life that fulfils God's requirements in deed.

That is why the apostle Peter urges us: “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:” (2 Peter 1:10). True awakening does not begin with the crowds, but with one person who stops, examines himself in the light of the Word and asks: have I truly been born of God? Am I a disciple in the school of Christ? Am I part of His body? Wherever the answer is not clear, this is the time to humble ourselves, to turn back and to make a true beginning. It is the time for awakening, and it begins with my own heart.

If you have come to the Unmodified Word website, know that this is its purpose: to help anyone who truly wishes to examine himself in the light of the unaltered Scripture. What is at stake is the most precious thing we can have, eternal life, and it cannot be bought with anything: “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26).

Today, more than ever, this examination is needed. We live in a time when numerous teachings, traditions and human interpretations are mixed with the message of Scripture, making it ever harder to distinguish truth from error. The apostle Paul's warning remains relevant: “For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.” (2 Corinthians 2:17). If even in the time of the apostles most people were corrupting the Word of God, how much more carefully must all teachings be examined today, to see whether they are truly grounded in Scripture.

Do not put off this examination.

The awakening of the heart cannot be postponed, because no one knows how much time he has left. Under many names and in many forms, what the apostle Paul called "another Jesus", whom the apostles did not preach (2 Corinthians 11:4), is being proclaimed today. Whoever wants to be sure that he has truly been born of God must return to the source. That is why we regularly hold meetings for the awakening of the heart in Alba Iulia, for those who are ready to pay any price to be saved. For the meeting schedule, call 0744 574 711 or write to us at contact@cuvantcurat.ro.

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