

HOW TO PREACH FOR REVIVAL



E. A. Johnston

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E. A. JOHNSTON

How to Preach For Revival
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By Dr. E. A. Johnston

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COVER PHOTOS:

See the description on the back cover of the book.

DEDICATION

The following chapters are dedicated to the memory of Clem Dear of Oak Park, Illinois, who gave me my first job in his Bible Book Store, gave me my first Bible, and led me to Jesus because he wouldn't let a thirteen year-old-boy go to Hell.

SAMPLE PAGES

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PREFACE

In the book of Amos in chapter eight and verse eleven we read: *“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.”*

Is this not the day in which we live? In our pulpits across the land very little preaching takes place, it is mainly teaching. Teaching informs, preaching transforms. And much of the preaching that is taking place is anemic, lacking power and sound doctrine. Not only is there a famine of hearing the word of God, there is a famine of preachers!

My homiletical mentor, Dr. Stephen F. Olford, taught me expository preaching, but we need more than just that in this late hour of the Last Days where the spirit of Antichrist is already in the land. We need a return to the searching sermons of the Puritans, which were full of sound doctrine and resonating with power from on high! This is a book on how to preach for revival and the salvation of souls.

SAMPLE PAGES

CHAPTER ONE NEEDED: PREACHERS

“Why are the preachers in the Book of Acts turning the world upside down? Why aren’t our preachers today turning the world upside down? Because the dissimilarities are obvious”

E. A. Johnston

Years ago, I was asked to do a radio interview on Christian radio and the female moderator related the following story to me.

She said that she once had a job that was eye opening in regard to ministry. She said she was hired by an organization to conduct a religious poll on the ministry and her job was to randomly telephone pastors around the country and ask them the following question, “Why did you become a pastor?” She told me that she contacted 1,000 ministers all across America and she was shocked by their answers as to why they entered the ministry. She related that one man said he became a pastor because he was a single man and he wanted to meet women! Another man said, that he was gifted with a winning personality that attracted crowds so that is why he became

a pastor. Another man said, he wanted to be a help the downtrodden in his community, so he thought the best way to do that was to become a pastor of church. One man said he was a good public speaker so this occupation best fit his talent. Another man said he had graduated seminary and earned a doctor degree and so this was his reason for becoming a minister because he was properly educated. This radio host told me that after speaking to hundreds and hundreds of ministers across the country they each had a reason to become a minister and it mostly self-motivated. Out of the 1,000 men contacted, only one man, she told me, had a different answer from all the rest. He was a black pastor in the South and he said the main reason he became a pastor because God called him.

The greatest need in a nation today are: **PREACHERS**. We need God-called men to take the Word of God and preach the Son of God with an anointing of the Spirit of God. This is the only way we can reach our country for Christ and the gospel.

But preachers need to know how to preach. A seminary training will not make you a preacher. I have graduated from two different seminaries with two doctorate degrees and

neither one of those academic institutions taught me how to effectively preach the gospel. I was trained as a preacher by my homiletical mentor, Dr. Stephen F. Olford, of whose expository preaching institute I was in the first graduating class. But even with seminary training and preaching institute training I still had to learn how to preach the Gospel of the Son of God effectively and only the Holy Spirit of God can teach you how to do that!

I will give you an example of the limitations of learning how to preach from a seminary. I was sitting in a preaching class taught by the preaching professor of a big Baptist seminary and one of the students seated next to me raised his hand to ask a question. He said, "I understand Professor what you are saying about communication, and projecting our voices, and annunciating our words clearly—this is all necessary for public speaking but...when I study men whom God has used in former times of revival, men like Jonathan Edwards, I see that the reason God used Jonathan Edwards was because he was a man anointed with the Holy Ghost." The seminary professor gave the student a disgusting look and in a condescending tone

he said in a loud voice, “You young man are no Jonathan Edwards!”

I believe that seminary student knew a lot more about preaching than that egg-headed preaching professor! Like I said, you may learn how to be a more effective communicator in seminary but they will not teach you how to preach. This book is handbook to learn how to preach and to preach with power! If you carefully study its chapters and learn its precepts and apply them to your own ministry; I can assure you that you will be a better preacher!



Dr. E. A. Johnston

Dr. Johnston is a fellow of the Stephen Olford Institute for Biblical Preaching and founder of Evangelism Awakening, a revival ministry. He is actively involved in Bible teaching, disciple-making and he is the author of *A Heart Awake*, *The Authorized biography of J. Sidlow Baxter*, *Asahel Nettleton Biography: Revival Preacher*, *George Whitefield, The Definitive Biography*, *God's "Hitchhike" Evangelist*, and several more books on revival.

FRONT COVER PICTURES

The picture on the left is George Whitefield's pulpit where he was curate at the Parish Church of All Saints in the village of Dummer, Hampshire. He preached in this pulpit for six weeks in 1736.

The picture on the right is Whitefield's crypt beneath the pulpit of the Old South Presbyterian Church in Newburyport, MA.



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