

## EPILOGUE

# EXALTED OR EXHAUSTED?

One evening, a friend of mine acted as a Messenger of Hope during his family's devotions. He read the exciting story of the Spirit's coming on the day of Pentecost. He reported similarly surprising outreaches among Christian young people at a local high school. The family sang the chorus: "He is exalted; the King is exalted on high. I will praise him." Following Mom's brief prayer of commitment to the family's own witness the next day, my friend pointed his children toward bed. As he was climbing the stairs with his three-year-old in his arms, the boy began to sing the chorus once again. One word, however, got altered in the child's mind. He sang: "He is *exhausted*; the King is exhausted on high." My friend remarked to me later, "That really got me thinking! If Christ is not *exalted* in revival, the church will end up *exhausted* trying to do it for him."

That's the conviction of every Messenger of Hope. We must exalt Christ so he can do for us what we cannot possibly do for ourselves. This realization keeps us going. And we are exalting him by preaching a vision of Christ that is as comprehensive as all the promises of God. We do it with the confidence that he is ready to pour out fresh revelations of those promises on the very people with whom we share. Then he will be even more exalted. And we will turn from

exhaustion to “times of refreshing” from the presence of the Lord (Acts 3:19).

What a reason to serve the kingdom! We bring people H.O.P.E. We enable other believers to:

*Hop on*—Get up to speed with what God has done and is doing in revival.

*Open up*—Help them to see in Scripture the ways and promises of God in revival.

*Pray back*—Lead them to seek God together for the fulfillment of this hope.

*Enter in*—Encourage them in steps of practical obedience to prepare the way for the coming revival.

Not long ago I met with six hundred pastors—Messengers of Hope—in Costa Rica. We devoted three days to strategizing about what it would take to complete the evangelization of their nation. We decided to set aside one afternoon to seek God about our plans. Just as we began to pray, it started raining. The building was covered with a tin roof, however. So the pounding torrent made it impossible to hear even the person next to you. For most of that prayer meeting we had to sit in personal silence, listening to the rain, pondering for an hour what the Spirit was saying to each of our hearts—alone in the storm, as it were, with God.

My thoughts wandered to John on the Isle of Patmos. I recalled how he fell at Jesus’ feet in similar silence, like a dead man, overwhelmed by the magnitude of Christ’s glory and power. And yet it was there, in the silence, that John received one of the greatest messages of hope ever sent, not only for the churches of Asia (see Acts 2 and 3) but for the whole body of Christ in the twenty-first century.

Cradled in showers outside San Jose, Costa Rica, many pastors were being similarly prepared by God, in silence, to be Messengers of Hope. Those moments were far more important for Christ’s kingdom than all the strategies we had concocted during the previous days of deliberations.

Like America, like every nation, Costa Rica’s greatest need is to be flooded with Messengers of Hope. Either Christ is exalted—by what

we herald, what we pray, and what we receive in true revival—or our work for God will finally collapse in exhaustion. In your role as a parent, a student, pastor, doctor, business leader, missionary, choir director, or whatever, I ask you: Can there be any higher calling than this, to be a Messenger of Hope? Does there exist a more sacred privilege?

Who will volunteer as an agent of revival to follow the Holy Spirit as *the* Agent of Revival? Because revival *is* coming . . . it is “the hope at hand.” He *will* be exalted!

Hear God’s summons to another Messenger of Hope; it is for you as well:

Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told. . . .

Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. . . . For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.

Habakkuk 1:5; 2:2–3, 14; 3:2