

## day 5 | Personal Revival in Shantung

- 1 Read about the picture of personal revival from the Shantung Revival in China. Pay attention to the way personal revival began to spread from one to groups to a whole school.



- 2 Ask yourself the two questions of Marie Monsen. First, "Have you been born again?"  Yes  No

Second, "What evidence do you have of the new birth?"

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- 3 What are some steps Charles Culpepper took to get right with God and to be filled with His Spirit?

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- 4 Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you any sin that still stands in the way of your being filled by Him. Ask Him to identify things you need to do to get those things right with others. Follow the steps to filling:

- Confess and repent of all known sin.
- Ask God to fill you with His Spirit.
- Believe that He has filled you.

## Charles Culpepper and the Shantung Revival

As if political unrest and evacuation weren't enough, missionaries in northern China had to face the probing questions their fellow missionary, Marie Monsen, persistently asked them: "Have you been born again?" "What evidence do you have of the new birth?"

As these relocated missionary teachers and doctors gathered for prayer and Bible study, God used these questions to prompt deep soul-searching. The humbled missionaries confessed and repented of sins and found reconciliation with God and one another. Some even realized they had never been saved, and they turned to Christ for the first time.

Missionary Charles Culpepper couldn't rest. He searched Scripture to understand what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit. As he sincerely prayed to be filled, the Holy Spirit reminded him of past sins he had never dealt with. He wrote letters asking for forgiveness. He sent stolen money back to his college alma mater and offered to return his diploma. But still he experienced no spiritual power in his work. He felt as if his heart were stone. "What is the matter, Lord?" he asked.

Leading him to Romans 2:17-25, the Lord convicted him that he was a hypocrite and that God's name was being blasphemed among the Chinese because of him. He awoke his wife, and they prayed all night. The next day he

confessed his pride to his fellow missionaries. He describes what happened next:

The Lord became more real to me than any human being had ever been. He took complete control of my soul—removing all hypocrisy, shame, and unrighteousness—and filled me with His divine love, purity, compassion, and power. During those moments, I realized my complete unworthiness and His totally sufficient mercy and grace. ...

The next day was Sunday, a new and wonderful day at our missionary church. I have never heard such praying or experienced such joyous fellowship as we had that day.

Students came back from the political displacement only to be met by teachers who had been changed by God's Spirit. They began a series of meetings that prompted great conviction of sin in the students.

For 10 days the services continued. By their end more than 1,500 students had turned to or returned to God. God had brought a downpour of blessing, first through two penetrating questions for the missionaries, whom in turn God used to impact a generation of students.<sup>1</sup> ↑

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1. C. L. Culpepper, *Spiritual Awakening: The Shantung Revival* (self-published, 1982), 1-35.