

# He Sends Refreshing

## Acts 16:9

*And a vision appeared to Paul in the night;  
There was a man of Macedonia standing, beseeching him,  
and saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.*

While we were at the national office God was doing something else in my heart and life. I have mentioned that I was discouraged and burned out from a stressful pastorate. One of the things we longed to do in Colorado Springs was to attend an exciting church that was very meaningful to us. We had visited there on several occasions when we traveled to visit Colorado Springs. This was a church that was a phenomenal missions church, a charismatic church, and a church where you could sense the presence of God. Every time we went to their services the worship was just awesome. It was a time of refreshing and intimate fellowship with the Lord. It was also a time when God was touching our hearts, melting, molding and changing us in ways that we desperately needed.

I remember one Sunday morning we were standing worshiping the Lord lifting our hands in praise. There was passionate worship going on all across the congregation. There were probably 3,000 people gathered together in that service and that was only one of two services.

As we stood worshiping the presence of the Lord was so real we were weeping. It seemed that in every service we ended up weeping because the presence of God was so powerful and the message was so directed at our hearts.

As I stood there worshiping the Lord I looked around at the crowd and said to the Lord, "Why can't I have a church like this? This is what Alliance churches used to be like. Why can't I have an Alliance church that's on fire for God? Why can't I be used in a place where people are hungry for the word of God?"

The Lord whispered to my heart, "Look around you." I looked around and saw people of every walk of life, rich people, poor people, black people, white people, Hispanic people, and Asian people. They were raising their hands and voices in loud praise to the Lord. Some of them were even on their faces on the floor worshiping the Lord for the awesomeness of his presence.

The Lord said, "Look at these people. They love me more than anything in the world. They don't really care what anybody else thinks about them. They're not showing off with their hands raised. They're not concerned about somebody judging them. They are just here to worship me. They love me more than they

love anything else in this world.” I responded, “Lord, I love you too. I love you more than anything in this world.”

Then the Lord said something that stopped me in my tracks. He said, “No you don't. You don't love me more than anything in this world. You love your ministry more than you love me.”

Wow! That was an amazing revelation to my heart. And it was true. I loved preaching. I loved teaching. I loved doing what I was doing on the website. I loved training people for ministry. I loved missions. But the Lord said, “You don't love me as much as you love those things.” Then the Lord said, “If you want to pastor a church like this you have to change the way you do your ministry. You have to love me more than you love your ministry. If you go back into pastoral ministries you have to prioritize your love for me and your time with me more than anything else in the world. I no longer want you to worry about the attendance or building a strong church. I want you to work on being a man of God. I want you to be a man of my presence. I want you to love me more than you love your ministry.”

That began a new adventure for me. The Lord was more important than my success in ministry. God was more important than the growth of any church.

From there God called us back into pastoral ministry in Pennsylvania where the Spirit of God was poured out on the congregation and we witnessed powerful miracles and phenomenal growth through the presence of God in that place. But that's another story that I've shared in my book titled, *Shekinah Glory*. I hope you will read it and rejoice in the demonstration of the power and presence of God in an average church.