

AUGUST 22nd and 23rd
REVIVAL IN SCOTLAND

“Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the spring of Harod. And the camp of Midian was north of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley. The Lord said to Gideon, ‘The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’” **JUDGES 7:1-2**

John MacArthur. Voddie Baucham. Both powerful preachers of God’s Word. Both died in 2025. As “famous” preachers and teachers die, you’ll see tributes all over social media. What do you think is the most common response to a loved preacher that has passed on to glory? You guessed it...usually it goes something like this: “Wow, what will happen to God’s people now that so and so is gone? What’s going to happen to the evangelical church now?” These concerns come from good intentions but ultimately fall flat because they come from a faulty source. It was never about men and women and what they accomplish for God; it’s always been about the God who calls them. All you have to do is read the book of Judges to find out that truth. God uses men that are very ordinary and uses means that show He is the ultimate victor. He is also the One who secures the victory.

Ever heard the name William M’Culloch? Odds are that you haven’t, and I hadn’t heard of him either. Perhaps the reason for this is because of his flat preaching. According to Dale Ralph Davis, here’s how his own son described him: “not a very ready speaker ... not eloquent ... his manner was slow and cautious. In fact, he was called an ‘Ale-minister,’ which meant that, when he rose to speak, a number in the audience left to quench their thirst at the local tavern.” That’s quite a description! But God. Revival broke out in Cambuslang, Scotland (near Glasgow) with his preaching. As Davis states, “I wonder if God was pleased to use William M’Culloch in order to make it clear that the Cambuslang work could not be explained by eloquence or human dynamism but only by the Spirit of God. The necessity of weakness—that is often Yahweh’s method.”

Men, we celebrate productivity and results in the Western world, and the local church is often no different. Results are often required to make us feel successful in what we’ve done in the name of God. But God continues to refine our hearts. Remember that Moses disobeyed God and struck the rock, but water still flowed from the rock. And God knew that Moses was unfaithful and disobedient. It’s time for us to look at our ministry “forest” from 40,000 feet. At this level we can ask much bigger questions than “how many people raised their hands?”, “how many people were served?”. Instead, let’s change it to: “How much was God honored today?” “How many people were faithful to obey God when we served?” Celebrate God’s glory. He is the one that gives the victory, no matter how small or how large. Josh Wilson has a song titled, “Dream Small.” Here’s a few of the words to remind us that it’s about God’s glory and not our dreams that count for eternity: “Don’t buy the lie you’ve gotta do it all. Just let Jesus use you where you are. One day at a time. Live well. Loving God and others as yourself. Find little ways where only you can help. With His great love a tiny rock can make a giant fall. So dream small. Keep loving, keep serving, keep listening, keep learning, keep praying, keep hoping, keep seeking, keep searching Add up the small things and watch them grow bigger the God who does all things makes oceans from rivers...”. Dream small, men. After all, we’re all small when we serve a grand God.

Spend some time thinking about ways that we misplace hope in results instead of the God who works in us and through us. Ask God to show His glory to the world, one small life at a time.

Further Reading: Judges 7:1-25

