



WHEN GOD SHOWS UP

One evening in Legion Stadium, Hank Erwin walks to the microphone in front of the three thousand students gathered. He begins, “I want to thank Coach Gerelds and his team for putting this together. Look around you. Look at this! Can you believe it?! This is what happens when God shows up!” The students cheer.

“A couple of years back, I went to something called *Explo* ’72 in Dallas where I joined a hundred thousand people just like us. Up until that time in my life I had felt so insignificant. I felt like I didn’t matter. Then on the last night, they shut the lights off in the Cotton Bowl—just like this.”

At that moment, the massive floodlights in the stadium all shut off. Only a single, small light remains on Hank. He continues, “And in the darkness, Reverend Billy Graham lit one single candle. I was standing in the very back of the Cotton Bowl, but I could see that light ... that one single light ... and I realized.” As Hank pauses, tears well up in his eyes, then he shares, “I realized in that moment, I was not insignificant.”

Mike Allyson lights a single candle in the middle of the crowd. He then lights the candle of the person next to him. That person then lights another’s candle. And so on it goes. The light begins to spread and faces begin to shine.

Hank continues, “One candle became two, which became

ten, which became a hundred thousand, all burning as one. People in Dallas started calling the police saying that the Cotton Bowl was on fire because of the fiery glow.” He pauses. “And you know what ... they were right!”

As the light from hundreds of candles begins to fill the scene with an amber glow, Hank says, “*Time* magazine wrote about us a couple years back. They said the ‘Jesus Revolution,’ as they called it, had a symbol.” Hank raises his fist in the air with his index finger upward. The crowd begins to shout. As Tony and Johnnie are sitting together, she puts her hand in the air, matching his gesture.

Hank boldly states, “This is our symbol, because there is one way. One way! You’re here united, not by the name of your teams or schools but by the Name that is above all names—Jesus!”

The students’ cheers grow louder, as Hank concludes, “One person—alone in the dark—willing to speak the truth when it’s not popular. One person—willing to speak the truth when it’s not safe—when there is much at stake. Look around you. We are not alone. This is what happens when God shows up!”

The Message is as true among you today as when you first heard it. It doesn’t diminish or weaken over time. It’s the same all over the world. The Message bears fruit and gets larger and stronger, just as it has in you (Colossians 1:5–6 MSG).

God is always at work, constantly moving behind the scenes and accomplishing His purposes. His kingdom advances, reaching around the world, growing “larger and stronger.”

When you continue to pray, but see nothing, keep seeking Him. He is at work.

When you are being obedient, but see no blessing yet, keep

being faithful to Him. He will make every moment worth the wait.

When you read your Bible and it begins to feel stale, keep reading, because He is storing His Word in your heart for a greater purpose to come.

When you are sharing your faith with a friend or family member, but he/she is not responding, keep sharing. God is moving in his/her heart.

When life is getting tough and everyone seems to be against you, keep walking in the light of Christ. He will see you through and bring you out the other side, better and stronger.

When you feel completely alone, stay close to Jesus and keep following. Pass the test. In His time, He will bring you far more than you could ever ask or imagine.



In your journal, write down:

- a prayer you have given up on that you need to pray once again.
- an area of obedience you need to get serious about once again.
- the name of a person you most want to see come to know Christ.

Take a few moments to pray about each of the answers you've written down.