Miskov, Jennifer
Defining Moments: Rees Howells

5. Brace Yourself!

This is the opening chapter of a book about God-encounters throughout history. The author frames the book as prophetic rather than merely historical: the accounts of past revivals are meant to stir readers to expect and pursue the same works of God in their own time.

Key takeaways

- The godly leaders the author has known never sought influence; God entrusted it to them because they first hungered for Him. Their devotion to Christ, not their gifts, is what stands out.
- Genuine encounters with God produce humility, not pride. Paul had a profound encounter yet called himself the least of the apostles and the least of all saints.
- Exposure to God transforms us and makes us carriers. Those who receive the light become light; those who drink become rivers of living water.
- The book is prophetic, not nostalgic. What God has done before is a precedent and a promise of what He will do again.

- Testimonies prophesy because God does not show partiality and never changes, so past revivals qualify this generation to expect a fuller outpouring.
- This generation is like the final runner in a relay; the 'cloud of witnesses' waits to see whether we carry history's momentum to a full restoration.

Passages worth keeping

> *"What he has done once, is a prophecy of what he intends to do again.... Whatever God has done...is to be looked upon as a precedent."*

Spurgeon's 1859 cry, the hinge of the book's argument that history foretells future revival

How it connects

The chapter ties personal transformation (John 1:9-12; Matt 5:14) to corporate destiny: encounters change individuals so that, cumulatively, the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God (Rev 11:15).

Scripture referenced

- **Hebrews 13:8** -- God is the same yesterday, today, and forever — basis for expecting past works again
- **Acts 10:34** -- God shows no partiality — qualifies every reader for the same encounters

- **John 7:37-38** -- those who drink become sources of living water — we carry what transforms us
- **Hebrews 12:1** -- the cloud of witnesses watching this generation finish the race