

REVIVAL

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When I consider the current political and moral climate in our country—combined with new racial tensions and the drug epidemic—my heart longs for revival. We desperately need a revival, an awakening, a move of the Holy Spirit in our land. Unfortunately, many Christians clamor after the latest and slickest methods to connect with our culture—scouring the Internet to see what is drawing the crowds. But better marketing isn't the path to true spiritual revival. In some churches today, Jesus' deity and holiness are being compromised. The Word of God is watered down; inspiration and inerrancy are set aside. Families are broken by selfishness and sin. I don't believe God has called us to be discoverers of new resources of truth but to be repairers and restorers, as Isaiah wrote:

And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. ISAIAH 58:12

The prefix *re* used in the words *repairer* and *restorer* means to do again, to bring something back. We must *repair* the breach—to *re* (go back) and *pair* (bring together) the things that are broken down: to repair the spiritual wall or defense to provide safety and security so that no broken area leaves God's Church vulnerable. We must *restore* the paths—bring back the stores of God's truth that have guided the paths of many generations. We are to be actively involved in renewing those paths, that they might be so filled with the light of God's Word that they are visible and others will be able to dwell in them.

Revived to Life

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that

is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. ISAIAH 57:15

God's promise to the humble and contrite, or repentant, person is to revive them. To revive is to *re* (bring back) *vive* (life)—to make alive again. If we will come before God in repentance and humility, we'll be restored

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to life—revived. What a wonderful desire, to see believers filled with fresh life from heaven. To see God's people gathered in awe of God's presence. To be bowed before His holiness, to have His love and grace so filling our hearts that all else fades and He alone becomes the answer to every question, every need, every problem, and every heart's cry.

A Move of His Spirit

In addition to returning to God's Word, the Church can never move forward without relying on the power of the Holy Spirit. If we want to see a real move of God without the taint of human fingerprints on it, we look to the Book of Acts to the first move of the Spirit where the Lord began the Church. In the Book of Acts, the Holy Spirit is mentioned nearly 60 times. Without radios or television, God built the Church using unlearned men who were following Jesus and were empowered by the Holy Spirit. That gives me great hope for us today.

In Luke 24, Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem "***until ye be endued with power from on high***" (verse 49b). Then, in Acts 2, the believers waited on the promise of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. They had been praying for 10 days. The Holy Spirit descended on them, and Peter was empowered to share the Gospel. ***Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls*** (Acts 2:41). Since that first Pentecost, multiple revivals have

sustained the Church for 2,000 years. And only a fresh move of the Spirit can capture a new generation and revive today's Church.

Evidence of Revival

After reading about revival in history and experiencing the Jesus Movement, I have observed several ways that true, Spirit-led revival impacts our world. When the Church is in revival, evangelism is an expression of a people who know their living Savior. Then, many souls are gathered in, and the entire culture and present generation are impacted with the reality of eternity. During the Welsh Revival in 1904–1905, the use of foul language and obscenities ceased, causing horses to need retraining with new commands; illegitimate birthrates dropped; taverns closed down for lack of patrons; there were "no robberies, no burglaries, no rapes, no murders, and no embezzlements, nothing." (*Prayer and Revival*, J. Edwin Orr)

When the Church is in revival, racial divides disappear, and the Church takes on the multicultural complexion God intends it to have—***every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation*** (Revelation 5:9b). As chronicled in the Los Angeles newspapers during the Azusa Street Revivals (1906–1915), racial barriers dissolve and God's family thrives.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2 CHRONICLES 7:14

The impetus is on us—not on the unbeliever. We need to pray, to seek His face, to turn from our wicked ways. We need to pray for revival—in our personal lives, in our churches, around the world. Prayer meetings must be part of your church's ministry. Pray. Pray. Pray for revival. 🙏

All Bible verses are quoted from the KJV.