

## REVIVE US AGAIN

### SCRIPTURE READING:

**Psalm 85:6-**“Will you not revive us again: that your people may rejoice in you?”(NKJV)

**Isaiah 57:15:** “For thus says the High and lofty One that inhabits eternity, who’s Name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones”.

**Habakkuk 3:1-2:** “O LORD, revive your work in the midst of the year! In the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy” (NKJV).

**Acts 2:1-18 & 36-47. 4:31. (Please read)).**

**INTRODUCTION:** For many years there has been a deep hunger and thirst in my heart to see the Lord work in Revival power. I truly believe that every new generation needs to witness the Lord working powerfully by His Spirit. In this message we shall look at what God has to say in His Word about Revival.

**We shall consider together four question regarding revival:**

- A) What do we mean by Revival?
- B) What can we expect to happen when God works in Revival power?
- C) Do we need Revival today?
- D) How can we prepare for Revival?

### **I. WHAT DO WE MEAN BY REVIVAL?**

- 1.) **The word Revival, according to James Strong’s Concordance of the Bible means** “to live ...to leave or make alive, to give promise of life; to nourish up, preserve alive, quicken, recover, repair, restore (to life), to revive, saved, (alive), to be whole”
- 2.) **The Dictionary states that the word Revival means,** “to bring back to life or restore to consciousness; to give new vigour, health; to bring back into use; to make effective or operative again; to renew in the mind or memory; to refresh; reawaken”.”
- 3.) **In a Biblical sense then, to Revive means** “to renew or restore, to make alive, to refresh or revitalize, to awaken, to stir up, to set ablaze as a fire which has almost been extinguished; To restore to spiritual life, power and service; to be stirred up to fresh love, zeal, devotion, faith, purity, fellowship and service, in the things of God; To become fruitful again, as a dry barren desert or field becomes fruitful again after drinking in the refreshing rains.”
- 4.) **According to Selwyn Hughes, a Devotional Writer,** “the Hebrew word for ‘revival’ or ‘revive’ contains the idea of God bending down to the dying embers of a fire and breathing into them until they burst into flame.”
- 5) **Revival has also been likened unto the Steel Punch of God’s Spirit.** It is a Divine attack on a corrupt society, and a breaking down of the strongholds of sin and Satan, and a restoration to the

paths of righteousness, true holiness, truth, and Spiritual power and fruitfulness in the Church. It is Divine Intervention!

6) Picture with me two natural examples which illustrate Revival.

a) Picture A dry bleak barren countryside: Then the refreshing rains come, and that dry barren countryside is revived and transformed into a fruitful field. This is what is pictured in Isaiah Chapter 35 and Isaiah 44:3-4. Sometimes our hearts and lives become hard and spiritually dry like a bleak barren desert, and we need the refreshing of the Holy Spirit to fall upon us like showers of rain, to refresh and revive us again, so that we will become spiritually fruitful again. In Acts 3:19 Peter says; “Repent ye therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when (or so that) times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord”. “Times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord”! This is a good description of Revival.

b). Also, picture a fire-almost extinguished: Then someone pushes the dying embers together, and puts some fresh dry kindling wood on the coals, and begins to blow upon them and that fire bursts into flames again. It is ‘revived’! In 2 Timothy 1:6 in the Amplified Bible Paul says: “That is why I would remind you to stir up -rekindle the embers, fan the flame and keep[ burning -the [gracious] gift of God,[the inner fire] that is in you by means of the laying on of my hands, [with the elders at your ordination]”.

7.) There are several examples of God working in Revival power in the Old Testament. Some of these are:-

A) On Mount Carmel in Elijah’s day; 1 Kings 18.

B) In the days of King Josiah. 2 Kings 22-23.

C) In the days of King Hezekiah. 2 Chronicles 29-30-31-32.

D) The great work of God in the city of Nineveh as a result of God graciously and powerfully working in Jonahs life, and then powerfully working through him as he preached to them. Read the Book of Jonah.

E) In the days of Ezra and Nehemiah. Nehemiah Chapters 8-9.

However we do not have the time or the space to consider these in detail at this time.

As we study the Word of God, (both Old and New Testaments), as well as Church history, we see that revival usually begins with the people of God (sometimes one individual, or just a few), and then spreads until it impacts many of Gods people, as well as the surrounding community and even the nation and may also affect other nations as God’s Word is proclaimed in the power of God!

8.) However in this Message we will look primarily into the New Testament, and particularly the Book of Acts, where we see the Lord working in mighty power-Revival Power!

II. WHAT CAN WE EXPECT TO HAPPEN WHEN GOD WORKS IN REVIVAL POWER? What are some of the ‘earmarks of Revival’?

(As mentioned above, we are going to look primarily in the New Testament and particularly the Book of Acts as we consider this question)

- 1.) We note first of all that Revival comes from God as a result, and on the basis of, the finished Work of Christ at Calvary. First Christ had to pay the price of our eternal Redemption at Calvary with His death, shed blood, glorious resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father; Then Revival Blessings could be poured out upon the praying disciples; Compare Acts 2:33: Then, "There came a sound from heaven" Acts 2:2. Revival does not come in a preacher's brief case, but from God in heaven. The early disciples did their part in obeying the Lord commands. They prepared their hearts and waited before God in faith and persevering prayer (Acts 1:14); But the Holy Spirit came from their ascended Lord at the right hand of the Father! However we do know from the study of the Scriptures that God works through dedicated, humble, Spirit filled, anointed ministries in accomplishing His purposes, for HIS OWN GLORY. Compare Ephesians 4:11-16.
- 2.) We further observe that Revival is powerful: "As a mighty rushing wind" Acts 2: 2. Revival may come as a refreshing rain, or like a gentle dove, working in the hearts of Gods peopled; but it may also come like a mighty rushing wind-with power and immediate impact. It is God suddenly coming amongst His people and working in power. We must be willing to allow God to work in our hearts by His Word and His Holy Spirit as he chooses.
- 3.) We also see here two important symbols of the Holy Spirit. 'WIND' and 'FIRE'. Acts 2:1-3. It is the Holy Spirit who is working in the hearts of Gods people in times of revival.
- 4.) We also clearly note here that when God works in Revival power, His people will be filled with the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:4; Acts 4:31. Today under the New Covenant, ALL believers in Christ are part of the Temple of God. He indwells us by His Spirit and desires to fill us and then work through us for His own Glory. Compare Ephesians 2:19-22; 3:14-21; 5:18.
- 5.) We also see here that when God works in Revival power lives will be transformed. Acts 2:14; Acts 4:13; the disciples of Jesus who had forsaken their Lord during his arrest and crucifixion, now stand up boldly-without fear and face the crowds. They are bold courageous witnesses for their Lord. Compare Acts 1:8. 4:31.
- 6.) When God Works in Revival Power there will be powerful Christ Centered Preaching and Teaching of the Word of God. Peter lifted up Christ in His preaching in Acts Chapter 2 and we see this throughout the Book of Acts. Compare also 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.
- 7.) When God works in Revival power there will be deep heartfelt conviction of sin as the Gospel is preached Acts 2: 36-37.
- 8.) When God works in Revival power, there will be genuine lasting Converts. Acts 2:37-42. They were convicted-cut to the heart; those who gladly received the Word in true repentance and faith were water baptized. They also continued on steadfastly in the Lord. Acts2:41-42. These were genuine conversions. In times of Spiritual Revival sinners will be genuinely converted to faith in Jesus Christ, and will continue on steadfastly in their faith.
- 9.) When God works in Revival power there will be Church Growth. Acts 2:40-42 and Acts 4:4.
- 10.) When God works in Revival Power there will be joy and gladness in the hearts of Gods people. Acts 2:46; 1 Peter 1:8.
- 11.) When God works in Revival Power there will be prayer, praise, and genuine Worship. Acts 1:14; 2: 42 & 47; Luke 24:53;
- 12.) When God works in Revival power, there will be a liberality in giving sacrificially.

Acts 2: 44-45; 4:32. 2 Corinthians 9:7.

13.) In the Book of Acts, When God worked in Revival power there were healings, miracles, and signs and wonders by the Holy Spirit. Acts 2: 43 & Chapters 3- 4-5-6-8; Compare Mark 16:20. Although God does not always work in exactly the same way in every revival, we can expect, according to the Scriptures that the Holy Spirit will work in supernatural ways, confirming the preaching of the Word of God. Mark 16:15-20; Hebrews 2:3-4; 13:8. Acts 2:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

14) When God works in Revival Power, there will be deep reverence and Godly fear among the People. Acts 2:43.Heb.12:28.

15.) When God works in Revival power, there will be a cleansing of the Church, and some times, acts of Divine discipline. Acts 5.

16) When God works in Revival power there will be true love and unity among believers. Acts 2:44-46; 5:12; John 13:34-35.

17.) When God works in Revival power there will be persecution and spiritual opposition.

Compare Acts 4-5-6-7-8-9. Spiritual warfare! Ephesians 6:10-18.

18) When God works in Revival power there will be evangelism and missionary outreach. Read Acts 1:8; and Acts 8, 9, 10-11-13. Gods people will have a love and compassion for the lost and will reach out to them with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Not only the so called 'clergy', but also the so called 'laity', indeed all of Gods people will become involved in helping to spread the Word of God. Persecution and opposition did not hinder, but rather helped the spread of the Gospel. Compare Acts 8:1-8. The Gospel of Jesus Christ will be proclaimed both near and far in times of Revival. Compare also Acts 11:19-26 & Acts 13:1-4

### III. DO WE NEED REVIVAL TODAY?

1.) Do our Churches need to experience Revival today?

2.) Do our families/Children/Grandchildren/ need to be touched by God in Revival?

3.) Do we individually need to be touched once again by the flames of revival? Do we see our need of spiritual refreshing from the presence of the Lord?

4.) Does our city/town, community as well as our nation need to come under the impact of the ministry of the Church which has been truly revived by God?

5.) Do we as ministers of the Gospel need to experience a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit-a fresh anointing of the Spirit-a fresh touch of the fire of God in our ministry? Every minister of the Gospel does need to take time alone in the presence of God and in His Word and open up their heart and life to the Lord and allow Him to pour out the Holy Spirit in a fresh way; We all need to be touched afresh with the fire of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God so that we might minister in the power and demonstration of the Spirit. Do we need to 'fan the flame of the fire of the Holy Spirit in our hearts' as Paul exhorts in 2 Timothy 1:6-7?

#### **IV. HOW CAN WE INDIVIDUALLY AND CORPORATELY PREPARE FOR REVIVAL?**

1.) **We need to take note of How the disciples of Jesus prepared.**(Acts 1-2 ). The Disciples of Jesus had forsaken their Lord during His trial and crucifixion, There had also been strife amongst them as to who would be the greatest in the kingdom! This was pride! **But they repented of their sins and were now with one accord in one place in earnest prayer. Acts 1:14 and Acts Chapter 2; Compare also Acts 4:24-33**

2.) **2 Chronicles 7:14: We see clearly in this passage of Scripture some important steps that the People of God need to take in preparing for Revival: “If my people who are called by my Name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways” [in true repentance]; then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”**

3.) **Isaiah 57:15 Note: The Lord has promised to ‘revive those who are humble and contrite’.**

4.) **Hosea 10:12; “Break up your fellow ground, for it is time to seek the LORD, till He comes and rains righteousness upon you”.**

5. **John 7:37-39-Notre Christ’s wonderful Invitation here: “If anyone thirsts, let him come unto me and drink. He that believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will Flow Rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit whom those believing in Him would receive...”**

**CONCLUSION:** If any individual or corporate group of Gods people will sincerely follow these Biblical instructions, the Lord will indeed visit them in revival blessings and then flow out through them in blessing to others, for Gods glory.

**“Revive us again; Fill each heart with thy love; May each soul be rekindled with fire from above”!**

**“Revive us again”!**

**Word in Season-by Lloyd Schuetz**