



DEFINING REVIVAL

Revival | 1.4.26

Libin Abraham

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Libin Abraham 0:00

Happy New Year to everybody. Some of us, we thought we would never make it past y, 2k but here we are, 26 years later, we are alive. We've made it. I want to wish you a great new year ahead, praying God's peace and presence over you, your family, over everything that is on your heart. May God move in and through our life in a powerful way. I believe this year, God is making an invitation to us that I want to spend the next five or six weeks talking about. Later this fall, we will celebrate our church's 50th anniversary of all that God has done, and I'm so excited about it, and I just have faith to believe that God's not done with us, that the most significant and impactful days of our church's life are not behind us, but they are ahead of us. I believe God is inviting us on the 50th year of our church's life into a season of renewal and revival that would lead us into the next 50 years if Jesus tarries, I believe God is inviting you and I to follow Him and to follow His purposes for our life with renewed passion and power. So today, we begin a series on Revival that's going to take us into the middle of February just longing and stirring in our heart and asking the Lord to stir in our heart what he wants to do. Wanna begin today by just a few good news. I know we hear a lot of bad news, but here's a few encouraging things that I think are markers of the beginnings of a reviving work that God is doing in the world, maybe brush fires of revival on the earth. Last year, did you know the Bible sales went up 22% it's amazing. I think there is a fresh hunger for truth in this generation. Gen Z, is experiencing a resurgence in church attendance, and we see it with our Hsn. Well, give it up for HSN students and our middle school students. There's more students attending, engaged in the family of faith. There's been this increase in public conversation about Jesus. Think about just the digital space and shows like Chosen or we're watching at home the House of David on prime and it's a great retelling of some powerful stories. Think about the ad campaign he gets us. And now there are some varying opinions about it. But what is true? I was in a meeting with this group of people. They said, every time we show he gets his campaign, we see about 2 million searches on Google about who Jesus is, and 18 million people are more open to a faith conversation about Jesus. Something is happening in the public sphere that is raising a question of who is Jesus? Last May of 2025, over 7700 people were baptized on a single day in Huntington Beach in California. One day, 7700 people plus baptized in countries like Algeria. 10s of 1000s of Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus despite tremendous persecution, praise God for revival that's happening in the Middle East, especially among the Muslim population. After the Asbury revival in 2023 there has been a sustained movement on college campuses where 1000s of students are being baptized into the family of God. Over the last few days, I was with many of our students at Passion conference at gold blyfield. Yeah, it was so amazing to see 45,000 plus college students from nearly 2000 campuses across all 50 states and 77 other countries gather for three days, fill up the Ranger stadium, worshipping Jesus and relishing in the Gospel. This was not a watered down gospel. It wasn't just hype. This was the gospel being proclaimed, and these 45,000 students were launched, sent back into their 2000 campuses 77 countries around the world with a mission to live for the glory of Jesus and to make his renown famous in their day, something is happening in the world. In France, last year, adult baptisms went up by 45% our missionaries in revival no longer. I'm sorry, our missionaries in Europe no longer call Europe post Christian. They call it pre revival. And I just love that Europe is pre revival. Two thirds of those who live in Sub Saharan Africa are Christ followers. In fact, 30% of all Christians on the globe live in Africa. God is up to something in the world, and I believe he's inviting you and I, our church, into the story he's writing in this hour that he wants to do a reviving work in us and through us, a reviving work that transforms our city. In our region where Jesus is lifted up, and as the cross of Christ is lifted up, 1000s are drawn to the beauty and the wonder of who Jesus is. And I don't want to miss out on what God is doing on the earth in this hour, I know that a word like revival can land differently to different groups of people, even in this room and even online for some revival brings about excitement. I get lights of fire in your soul. You think about God rescuing people and prodigal sons and daughters coming home, and healings taking place, and passionate worship and the kingdom of God advancing reconcile

relationships, and it's an exciting thing, and it is for others, though, revival brings skepticism because you've seen a lot of noise without no without any fruit. You've seen revivals with a lot of hype and no holiness. You've seen revivals that had a lot of emotion but no transformation. For some, under the banner of revival, people have been manipulated, put under emotional pressure, and it's really an abuse of something that could be and should have been beautiful. Maybe that's where you're at, skeptical about the word revival. For others, you're not skeptical or excited, you're just indifferent. It brings indifference because maybe you're thinking, man, revival sounds like a really long church service, and I'm not sure I'm all about that. Are we going to put up a white tent on our parking lot and have seven days of services? Maybe you're starting the year already overwhelmed with everything going on in your life, all of your To Do lists, all the big things coming up, and you're thinking, revival sounds great, but I don't have much to give. I don't know that I can create more space in my life for what God wants to do. And I've been in all of those three emotions, and I understand exactly how you feel if you're in any of those categories, but I want to give you a definition of the word revive. It's from the Hebrew word Haya. Say it with mihaya. See you're all revival experts. Now here's what revive means in the Old Testament. It means to bring back to life, to restore vitality, to awaken from weakness, apathy or discouragement. So just for a moment, put aside all of the preconceived notions we have about revival and ask yourself, is there something in my life that I wish was restored back to vitality? Is there something that lacks joy and wonder that I wish was awakened with fresh wonder and joy. Do I know someone who left the faith or have never discovered the wonder of Jesus that I wish was awakened to life in Christ? Do I have broken relationships that I wish were restored, or do I see a fractured society that I wish experience wholeness and joy. If you're in any of those categories, I think you actually do long for a biblical version of what revival is. Think about it. There are over 2 million, 2 billion people on the earth who call themselves Christians. They identify as Christians. What would it look like if 2 billion people who call themselves Christians had a revived heart for Jesus, where Jesus was in a box they checked, or someone they claimed to believe, but they truly lived, a spirit filled Jesus centered life everywhere they went. What if revival restored a fresh passion for righteousness and justice on the earth? What if revival created a special compassion in our heart for the poor, the marginalized and the forsaken? What if revival created a fresh passion to reach those who don't yet know Jesus. What if every Christian had a revived heart? Think about how different the world of politics would be if every Christian in the sphere of politics lived with a revived heart, loving Jesus and loving their neighbor. Think about how the world of business or health care education would be if people were not primarily motivated by building their own brands or empires or getting as rich as they could, but they were marked by a heart of service. As Jesus was. Think about how our local grocery stores or the local DMV would feel different if joy filled the Earth. Some of you who have never been interested in revival now are because you think if something could change the DMV, I'm all about it. We need revival because revival accelerates discipleship and mission. That's what revival is. It is a catalyst. It is something that accelerates our discipleship to Jesus and our mission.

Libin Abraham 10:00

It in the world, we cannot plan or produce a revival. We must ask God to pour it out. It is actually not something we initiate. It's something God does on the earth. Growing up, I would see massive banners and flyers saying, revival, 7pm this Friday, thinking, Okay, can we really just plan a revival? Put our date on the calendar and it shows up. That's not how it works. We don't manufacture it. We don't produce it. It is God moving on the earth. But what we can do is we can ask for it. We can position our life in a way that revival is possible. We can posture our hearts with a longing that, though we can't organize a revival, we can agonize it. We can agonize for it, as we see brokenness in the world and darkness and chaos, there ought to be this sense of longing. Saying, God, we need a revival, a renewal, a season of refreshing on the earth. We can long for it. This is what the Sons of Korah did in Psalm 85 as they lead a prayer for revival. Psalm 85 is fascinating, because here the people of God have come back home. They're not in exile anymore. Things are seemingly good. In fact, notice how the psalm begins in verse one, the Psalmist says, Lord, you showed favor to your land. You restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave your people's guilt. You covered all their sins, you withdrew all your fury, you turned from your burning anger, all that is amazing. They're no longer in exile. They're in the land that God promised them. They're even experiencing the fortunes of Jacob. Things are going wow. They've got their homeland. They've got prosperity. God has forgiven them of their sins. He's removed his anger. And we would even look at that and say, Man, that sounds like revival. What more could they want? That's a good place to coast and settle down in. But as you keep reading, these people were not satisfied with these things. In Verse six, the sons of Korah, pray, will you not Revive us again so that your people may rejoice in you? They had blessings, but they lacked a closeness with God. They were back home in their land. They knew their sins were forgiven, their guilt removed. They knew things were good, but what they were missing was the tangible presence of God. And here the Sons of Korah saying, God, we, thank you for the blessings. We, thank you for bringing us home. We, thank you for the good things. But if we have all of these things, but we don't have you. That's not good enough. Will you Revive us again? Share your

presence with us. We want to experience the manifest glory of God, so that we will rejoice in you again. Not rejoice in the land or rejoice in the blessings, but we will rejoice in you again. Sometimes the greatest sinners, revival is the very blessing God has given us, because you can say, Man, things are actually looking good. In my life, I'm saved. Sins are forgiven. I go to church, I'm active. God seems to be near because I'm experiencing the blessings of God. But if we're experiencing the blessings of God but have forgotten the blessing, we need revival. If we cherish the gifts more than the giver, we're in need of revival. The heart of revival is a people saying, God, we want our joy to be in you. We want our heart's vision like we sang, to be you. We want the greatest thrill and passion of our hearts not being the stuff you've given us, the homes you've given us, the jobs you've given us and the family you've given us. We want our rejoicing to be primarily in you, because it's possible get lost in the blessings, and we lose margin for God. God is getting our attention. Is moving us in a new direction, or moving on the earth. We actually have lost a priority for God in our life. This is what they're praying God. We want to rejoice in you. And as you read Psalm 85 it describes revival as a returning to the faithful love of God, to the justice of God, the compassion of God, where the land is bearing fruit as they're rejoicing in God. It's been a lot of different definitions for revival across the centuries, and I want to read a few of them. Martin Lloyd Jones. He once described revival as God making his presence known in. Overwhelming power. I've heard it said that if you have to ask yourself, if it's a revival, it's probably not a revival, because you'll know when a revival is taking place, it is the overwhelming presence and power of God. Aw, told your word like this, that revival is a church falling in love with Jesus all over again. It's a church returning to her first love. That's what revival is. John Wesley wrote, revival is God kindling a fire that spreads faster than we can contain it. I would even say faster than we can control it. God kindling a fire. Some of our sisters, current day contemporary sisters like Christine Cain would say, revival is when the Spirit of God stirs the people of God to live the mission of God with renewed passion and power. Jackie Hill Perry, she would say like this, revival is not emotional intensity, it is sustained repentance and obedience produced by the Word and the Spirit season repentance and sustained obedience as we hear God's Word and the Spirit goes to work in our life. All these are good and beautiful definitions of what a revival is. But I want to give you a definition that sort of is a summary definition of all these, and it comes from a book that our senior leadership team and some of our elders are reading. It's called longing for revival, written by James Chung and Ryan Pfeiffer. This is a great book if you want to journey through the next five weeks or so, whether you're skeptical, indifferent or excited about revival, they do a great job of inviting us into a kind of longing that's accessible for everyone, inviting every Christian to long for revival. And here in this book, here's how Ryan and James define revival, that revival is a season of breakthrough in Word, deed and power that ushers in a new normal of Kingdom experience and fruitfulness. Let me read it again. The revival is a season of breakthrough in Word, deed and power that ushers in a new normal of Kingdom experience and fruitfulness. I want to go through this definition, because it's going to lay a foundation for this series. First of all, the revival is a season of breakthrough, breakthrough, things that you've been waiting for, things that should take years or decades God breaks through and moves in such a quick pace, things that should have taken years could actually take a day where God supernaturally intervenes and breaks through, but it's a season. Revival is not just a day. It is a season where we see God doing multiple things as he's on the move on the earth. Think about the day of Pentecost. The Day of Pentecost in itself, was not the revival, but it catalyzed the revival in the early church, the day of Pentecost set forth new rhythms where the people of God prayed passionately. They heard the apostles teaching. They served one another. They were generous with each other, that they were bold in their faith. It set forth a new normal for the church. The day of Pentecost would lead to Acts five, where God disciplines and the fear of the Lord comes on the land, it will lead to Acts six. But there is injustice happening to the ethnically minority groups of people within the early church, and it moves people to justice in Acts six. So Pentecost catalyzed a movement in the Church of Jesus. It was more than a day. It was a season of God breaking through into the world, a season of breakthrough that brings three results, a breakthrough in Word, deed and power. Word, deed and power. There's an image on the screen. This is, I think, what revival equally produces, word, deed and power. The word is the expression of the gospel that comes through preaching and teaching. When revival takes place, there is a bold proclamation of the gospel and a receiving of the gospel, where the word of God is preached boldly and received wholeheartedly the things that made the human heart callous or hard or resistant to the Word of God, resistant to the Gospel, the supernatural power of the Spirit breaks through and the hearts of people are open to what God is doing. When you read histories of revival, people will literally pull aside on the side of the road out of conviction to the Word of God, because they would recognize their need for Jesus and repent of their sin, and there would be an immediate response to the gospel.

Libin Abraham 19:54

It is God moving to the power of His Word. Second of all, it is a breakthrough in indeed, that revival doesn't just give us a great church experience or service. No, no. It moves us to action that we have a higher desire for holiness in our life. Revival moves us to acts of compassion and justice and mercy, when we see our life as part of God's mission of bringing Shalom on

the earth, and we see our lives as agents of healing for tangible brokenness on the earth, and it moves us to respond. It moves us to act if a revival takes place and there is no mission advancing, there is no healing happening on the earth, perhaps it's not a true revival. Revival always leads to acts of compassion, righteousness and justice and mission on the earth. But not only is revival manifested in the expression of preaching the gospel or demonstrating the gospel through deed. A revival is accompanied by the power of the Holy Spirit of God. A revival produces supernatural things, miraculous things, things that are humanly impossible, things that you can't program or plan or give enough money to a revival produces a supernatural outpouring of the Spirit of God on the earth where massive amounts of people are saved and the sick are healed, and brokenness is healed, and God moves supernaturally on the earth. It is a breakthrough in Word, power and deed. These three words are not just made up by the authors of this book. Notice how we see these three things in multiple places. Look at how Paul summarized his ministry in Romans, 15, Paul, who led one of the greatest revivals among the Gentiles, describe his ministry and notice Power Word indeed showing up here verse 17 of Romans, 15. Therefore I have reason to boast in Christ, Jesus regarding what pertains to God, For I would not dare say anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, by word and deed for the obedience of the Gentiles, by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit. As a result, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum. Paul is saying, Look, when I think about what God has done in leading the Gentiles to himself, there has been a proclamation of the gospel from Jerusalem to the known world. I've been able to proclaim this gospel in Word and proclaim this gospel through my deed and some of the things that Paul was led to do ended him up in prison, in shipwrecks, in hunger and in famine. But all of that was so that the Gentiles would obey the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and in deed. But he says it was a spirit that gave me the power. It was the spirit that empowered miraculous signs and wonders so that the gospel would be proven as true and right. We can even go further back to Jesus and have power word and deed describe the life and ministry of Jesus. Notice how Peter describes the ministry of Jesus in Acts 10, verse 38 Peter says, look at how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how he went about doing good and healing all who were under the tyranny of the devil, because God was with him. So Jesus was filled with power by the Spirit, the same spirit that was in Jesus is where now in us, in you. So Jesus was filled by the power of the Holy Spirit, and he went about doing good, having compassion, lifting up those who are on the margins of society, helping people know their worth and value in the eyes of God, doing good and healing, supernaturally healing those who were under the tyranny of the devil. Power Word indeed, Matthew records the life of Jesus like this verse 23 now Jesus began to go all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogue, that's the word, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness among the people. So the life of Jesus is word. He's preaching the gospel about himself, bringing the news of the kingdom of God, preaching about who the father is. It is. Him doing the work of justice and compassion and love for those who felt that God could never love them, that is him healing those who are sick and oppressed by the devil by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is important, because Jesus is revival fully embodied. If you want to know what revival looks like, you first go to Jesus. Jesus was bringing revival in the face of dead religion. Jesus was bringing revival when the when the popular thought and philosophy and world religions were leading so many astray. Jesus was bringing revival in the face of secularism. He was a walking revival for both the religious and the secular. He was revival fully in body. And Jesus' life is marked by power, word and deed. And if this Christ is in you and me, sending the same markers of his life mark us to and describe our life, our dealings, our relationships. At any moment, we drift from the very characteristics of Jesus where we need to be revived, back to the character and the personhood of who Jesus is alive in us. Want you to go back to that image of power, word and deed, and you can almost identify all the denominations within Christianity with an emphasis on one of these. Can't you some denominations have a high view of word. I mean, it's all about doctrine and teaching and orthodoxy and belief. It's good. While others have an emphasis on experience, they don't really want to teach a whole lot. They just want to seek out the experience of the supernatural and others. They don't really want to sit in service and hear a message. They just want to go out and make a difference. Let us go do some things, and it's really sad that we've actually pitted these against each other. The people who are word centered look down on those who are power centered, and the people who are de centered look down at those who are word centered or power centered. But Ryan and James talk about in this book, these are things that God has always meant to stay together. Let's not pull apart. Let's not divide what was always meant to be together. A true revival will bring all three of these things, word, deed and power, because if you have word without deed and power, you will grow in knowledge. The Bible says you will be puffed up with knowledge, leading to arrogance. If we have power without word or deed, we'll pursue emotionalism and chase the next experience, the next crusade of the next conference, and it'll actually lead to disappointment, because feelings fade. If you have deed without power or word that is merely a social justice movement, lacking the real source of hope and the real source of power, which is the gospel. We need to keep all three in mind as we long and live out a revival Amen. Amen. Put that image back up for a minute. I want you to see. Ask yourself, actually, which of these circles is largest in your life? Like, what do you gravitate towards? Like, which of

these circles is looming large and which is looming small? Like, if you're a word person, you're like, Man, I'm all about the word like, forget the one year Bible. I'm doing it in 90 days because I just want the word, if you're a deep person, like, can we just dismiss like, 30 minutes early so we can go feed the poor? If you're a power person, you can't wait for January 15 for a night of worship and prayer to call down the supernatural things of God, and it's okay to have a gravitational pull towards one. Recognize it. For me, it would be the word I could read commentaries all day long. You know how I unwind from preaching? On a Sunday, I go and listen to other people's sermons. That's how I unwind. It's weird. I love the word, but what I lack most is the deed part. A healthy disciple may gravitate towards one, but we need to be healthy in all three areas. I wonder which of these God wants to bring a revival into your heart through. I'll take the liberty and maybe give a different application of this to your home, because I think healthy churches are made of healthy families and healthy individuals and healthy marriages.

Libin Abraham 29:47

What would this year look like if you experienced a revival of word in your family, and if you're married, in your marriage, not just the word of God being prominent, certainly that. But what if your words communicated the loving words of Jesus? What if your words were more gracious this year than ever before, less harsh and more loving? What if your words came with an eagerness to listen first and speak second. What would it look like for God to revive the very words you use at home, towards your kids, to your spouse, to those at work? What have you experienced a revival of Word, where his words guided your words? What if you experienced a revival of deed where you no longer kept score. You were looking for who to blame, but rather you committed to outdo one another in service we showed honor and respect and care for each other, that there was a revival of acts of kindness and sacrifice to your spouse, to your kids, to your parents, whoever it may be, there was a revival of deed. But just as Jesus served us, we set out to serve one another. What if we experienced a revival of power in our families when we call down on the supernatural activity of God. We didn't give up on each other. We didn't settle into bitterness or resentment. But rather, we are praying for our spouse with our spouse, for our children. We're contending in the spiritual things of God, asking God to do something supernatural that we would be committed to living a life that was inexplorable by human means, that the Spirit of God would awaken us to His voice and to his presence, starting from our living rooms and from our homes. What if those things are true of us, individually and as families? Perhaps that's how our church experiences a revival in power, word and deed. I asked some of our senior leaders a few weeks ago, if you think about those three circles, what would be the largest circle in our church? Like, are we a word centered, power centered, or deed centered? Church? And we all kind of agree that, at least for most of Benjamin's life, and even now, we're probably the largest circle is word. We've been a Bible teaching expositional church, and we will always be that we love the fact that we love the word. We love teaching the word. The second on that list probably is deed, like we do an amazing job responding to needs and being there for each other. But the third on that list is probably power. It's not that the Holy Spirit hasn't been at work. He's always been at work. You can't have the proclamation of the gospel without the Spirit at work. But as someone said, Perhaps we've tolerated the Spirit's power and more than truly welcome it into our daily life, into our services, but our agenda is to make more and more space for the Spirit of the Living God. As we step into the next 50 years, may we grow in all three and especially in our awareness and availability to the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our life and in our church. Ryan and James in the book, they talk about what has to be at the center of power word and deed is love. It's love. And actually, this excites me, and I think this is why bentry is so positioned for revival, because this is an amazingly loving church. I've seen the way you love God and love one another. I think this is going to be the secret to the revival we will see. It's love. In fact, if you do power word and deed, and you can't do them without love, it's worthless and it's dangerous. If you try to grow in power word and deed apart from love, it is dangerous. The Pharisees are passionate about the word, but they lacked the Father's love for people, causing them to condemn and judge and isolate. If you're after power, but not full of love, you can abuse it. You can grow prideful. You can manipulate it. If you're after the deed without love, you may find yourself protesting for a good cause and hating the people you're protesting against. It's possible to be committed to a cause and lack love. Love has to be the center that drives a revival of Word, deed and power. You see it in first Corinthians 13, verse one, you see all three rooted in love, where Paul says, In First Corinthians 13, if I speak human or angelic tongues, that's power. Angelic tongues, but do not have love, I'm a nosey gong or clanging cymbal. If I have the. Gift of prophecy, again, power supernatural things, and understand all mysteries and knowledge word, and I have all the faith so that I can move mountains. But do not have love. I am nothing. And if I give away all my possessions, even my own body, that's deed. I'm going to sell all my stuff and give away possessions in order to boast, but do not have love. I've gained nothing. It's not a revival unless we're growing in love, unless we're rooted in the love of Jesus for us and for the world. It is love that anchors us in the breakthrough of God's Word, His deeds on the earth and his power on our life. We'll go back to the definition for a moment, that a revival is a season of breakthrough in Word, deed and power that ushers in a new normal of Kingdom,

experience and fruitfulness. It doesn't come and go and then we go back to our old life. No, no. It is a change that is here to stay. It determines a new rhythm of life, a new normal of what of Kingdom experience and fruitfulness. A revival leads to more of the kingdom of God here on earth as it is in heaven. A revival gives us more days of heaven here on earth, a revival moves our feet to action, on our hands to sorrow and our heart to love, so that his kingdom comes through us. A revival mobilizes the people of God for the mission of God. It takes us out of our comfort zones and our conveniences, and it propels us to Kingdom activity that breaks through the darkness and brings light and hope into the world. It's not a revival unless it advances the mission and purposes of God on the earth. This is what David Jeremiah said about revival. He said revival is the rekindling of a flame, but when the fire is lit, it doesn't just warm up the church. It lights up the world. Not interested in a revival that just warms us off and give us a good experience? No, I long for revival. Yes, it warms up the church, but it lights up the world. It lights up our schools, it lights up our workplaces, it lights up our neighborhoods. It brings hope and joy to those who most need it. It brings about a kingdom, experience and freedom. Amen, you can clap for that. Thank you. Amen, that's what we long for. Ronnie gypsy Smith was born in 1860 right outside of London, and he was literally born into a gypsy tent. He was poor, uneducated and marginalized in his day, he didn't know how to read. Until later, he became a Christian and started to read the Bible. That's how he read to read. Learned to read. His dad was in and out of prison. Eventually, his dad came to Christ, and it catalyzed his own conversion of trusting in Jesus. And when he came to Jesus, he became one of the most powerful evangelists of his day. Rodney Smith would travel across the Atlantic 45 times. Preach for 70 years, he would speak to crowds and presidents and kings and large numbers of people. One day, Rodney was asked this question, how do you start a revival? How do you begin a revival and notice his answer? He said, Go home, lock yourself in your room, kneel down in the middle of the floor with a piece of chalk, draw a circle around yourself and there on your knees, pray fervently and brokenly that God would start a revival within that chalk circle. How does a revival begin in me and in you? My friends, Benzie, who leads our prayer team, he's literally done this with a blue tape in his office, drawn a circle around himself with blue tape and his daily asking, send a revival inside of the circle. What would that look like for you to draw a circle? And fervently with a broken heart? Thank God revive me if you're wondering you need revival or not. Here are a few questions that are worth reflection. Ask yourself, has my love for Jesus grown cold, routine or duty driven. Can

Libin Abraham 39:48

even ask yourself, was there a time in my life that was more in love with Jesus than I am right now? Have I become overly busy or distracted that I've stopped prioritizing my time with God? Doing good things, responsible things. Has it taken you away from just being with him? Have I been excusing away sins in my life? Someone said it like this, you know, you're in need of revival when sin becomes casual and obedience becomes optional. Has sin become casual, rather than confessing and repenting? You just kind of excuse it. Am I harboring hatred or unforgiveness towards someone? Do you have hatred towards any group of people? Unforgiveness is eating you up inside. Are there broken relationships that I'm avoiding instead of healing? No, we can't control the outcomes, but we can't initiate instead of avoid. Am I growing in the fruit of the Spirit or drifting towards the works of the flesh? What's the trajectory of your soul right now, growing in joy and peace and self control and goodness all the fruit of the Spirit, or moving drifting towards the things of the flesh. Have I become indifferent about people who are without a relationship with Jesus lost sight of the fact that heaven and hell are real places. There's so many in our city, in our neighborhoods, neighbors who are on their way to an eternity apart from Jesus that we stopped caring. Can answer that question by the next question, when was the last time I shared the gospel with someone who's not a believer? It's been a while. I think this year God wants to do a reviving work in us. Begins in me, it begins in you. So just bow your heads for a moment and just ask yourself, ask God, rather God, where do you want to do a reviving work in me? Where ever grown cold, disinterested, apathetic, what have I lost sight of? Who are the people that I need to start praying for before we can ask God to send a revival to our church and begins in that circle of just one god revive me. I wonder if there's somebody here today who just happened to show up on the first Sunday of a new year saying maybe I'll just try this shirt thing out. And actually, what you're in need of is a revival heart that knows Jesus awaken to the beauty and wonder of the gospel, don't wait any longer. Today is the day to step into the kingdom of God, to receive forgiveness and to receive life. So Jesus, for all of us, imagine there's something you want to revive and restore and bring back to vitality, to acknowledge our need for revival. We don't need to be scared of it. We long for it. We agonize and in our church, in our city, in the spheres of our life. Would you use us in Word, power and deed to bring about Kingdom experiences and fruitfulness. The Lost may be found, the broken might be healed, the marginalized and the Forgotten may be loved and remembered. That we would see it in our marriage, in our family, in the closest circles of our life, we would experience a renewal of your work. So with hearts completely available and open. Take us on a journey this year God that will set up a new normal for the next 50 years of our church's life, a new normal. God, the world needs it, but you don't start in the world, you start in the church. So we're open, we're honest, we're humble, and we're available every way, Lord Jesus and all these things. In the name of Jesus, we pray.

The church said aloud, amen, amen, amen, amen. You know, let's give God thanks for his reviving work. You.