

HOW TO HAVE REVIVAL

TEXT: *Psalms 85:6: Wilt Thou not revive us again: that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?*

INTRODUCTION:

The Psalmist saw Israel as they used to walk with God. He remembers how God used to bless them and watch over them, and how He would lead them, and rejoice their hearts in the House of God. Then came the days when they broke His Laws, disobeyed His Commandments, and became careless and indifferent.



They began to think they were privileged characters. They forgot to seek the Lord and obey His Word. They became hollow in their soul. Their faces are now become long, their chins are bumping their knees. They are acting like they did not have God in their lives, and have gone back to the devil.

This prophet of the Lord is crying out for a Revival in the soul of His people.

Psalms 85:6: Wilt Thou not revive us again: that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?

He tells us why in the last part of the verse: ***“that Thy people might rejoice in Thee.”*** He is asking the Lord to replace into the Body of believers what they used to have.

If the Psalmist could pray like this, how much more do you and I need to seek the Lord to lay bare His arm and give us a mighty REFRESHING in our souls. We need the moving of the Holy Spirit.



We need a church that is not beat down, weak, sickly, and powerless to face the enemy of our soul. We need the joy of the Lord which is our strength. Joy can only remain ours as we live above sin, and walk in the Spirit.

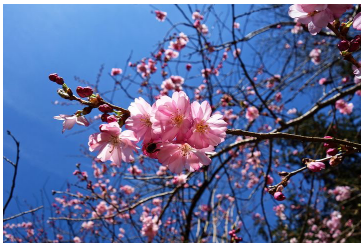
Nehemiah 8:10: Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the

fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

To show you how much we need a Revival: A minister stands up in his congregation and announces that we are going to start a two week Revival meeting until the glory of God falls, souls are saved, and needs are met. That would be like pouring cold water over them. People will say: *“But I’m so tired! I’m working too hard, and this is not the right time. Let’s have it in the Springtime or in the Fall or in the Winter. Let’s have it some other time when I can’t take my boat to the lake, or some other time when I can’t go to the mountains and ski.”*



There are a million and one excuses from people calling themselves Christians for not wanting a Revival. I would not be as popular if I’d announce that next Sunday I’m gong to put on display a contagious disease or if I’d announce that we will take up a great big public Offering next Sunday, so everybody come prepared to give. That would be the Sunday you’d get sick, or feel you need to go see grandma.



In every other way we want Revival — like in nature, we want the rains to come and revive our gardens and lawns. In the spring, we look for a Revival in nature when the leaves begin to bud forth and the robins come back up to this section hunting for food. The flowers begin to bloom, and we like a Revival in nature.

We like a Revival in health. If we’ve been sick and we begin to regain our strength and health, we rejoice over that.

We like to have a good Revival in business and industry so that the economy will turn around and we do not have to struggle to make a living. Businessmen’s hearts fail them for fear when hard times come. We want a Revival in the economy. We would be glad if someone would stand up and announce we are going to have a quick recovery. Why, they’d flash that all over the world if somebody had the power to make it so.

But when we start praying for Revival amongst the people of God, then there are those who are always looking at the counterfeit. We recall in the past how some churches only wanted to have a membership drive to get new members into their church that were not really born-again; or a drive to get

more finances into the till of the church so that the bills might be paid and we get out of debt.

What we need all over this country and around the world is an old-fashioned, Holy Ghost, God-sent, soul-saving, devil-hating Revival — where the glory of God falls like rain and the people go to praising the Lord and glorifying His Name. Where sinners pray through and get happy, and have a good old-fashioned shouting spell.



But the modern Church would like to take it easy. We like our deadness and we don't want to be bothered or stirred up. But we had better want to get revived and stirred up and ready, for Jesus is coming soon, and time is running out.

This prayer which David prayed is a very short one, but there are volumes of meaning and value wrapped up in it. It is a prayer for God's people to get revived. They cannot revive themselves; only God can do this. Look at it again:

Wilt Thou not revive us again?

Did you notice that David is not excluding himself from this petition? That "US" in there reminds me of how our Lord taught us to pray the model prayer:

- (a) Give US this day our daily bread.***
- (b) Forgive US our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.***
- (c) Lead US not into temptation, but***
- (d) Deliver US from evil.***



King David knew from experience that if there is any great move of God on the hearts of sinners towards God, it must begin in the hearts of God's people. For when sinners come into a church that is cold, indifferent to the condition of the lost and worldly living in sin, that is no place for a sinner to ever find Christ in living reality. Why, that would drive the sinner away from God and deeper into a life of sin.

EVERY LASTING Revival must be preceded with a deep work of grace in the hearts of God's people. You will know it is going on when you see the following things happening.

- **A longing in the people's hearts for the moving of God's Spirit in their midst.**
- **God's people making confession of their sins, their coldness of heart, and the making of restitution both to God and to one another.**
- **A great humbling of their hearts before God, and a willingness to admit their failures.**
- **Prayers of submission to the Will of God, and consecrating their lives back to Him.**
- **A travailing spirit of prayer for the lost condition of members of their families.**
- **A more tender love shown towards the members of the Body of Christ, and a concern for their spiritual welfare as well as their physical and material needs.**
- **A renewed desire to be a part of the work of God, and anxious to serve in any capacity where their services may be needed.**



Only God can produce such a work of grace in and on our hearts like this. It is not the work of man, but it is brought to pass by God in reviving us again. The natural result will be as found in my text: *"We will want to rejoice in the Lord"*. We will want to praise His Name and give unto Him the glory that is past due to His Name.



When the sinners hear us praising the Lord, it is like music in their ears. It will draw them to the House of the Lord. They will want to be around those happy and blessed people.

Before such a Revival, we either want to be praised by one another, or we will praise ourselves and congratulate ourselves for being such wonderful Christians. That is what the Pharisees did whom the Lord Jesus told about in:

Luke 18:11-14:

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto Heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

God is not a million miles away from a person in such a bad shape.

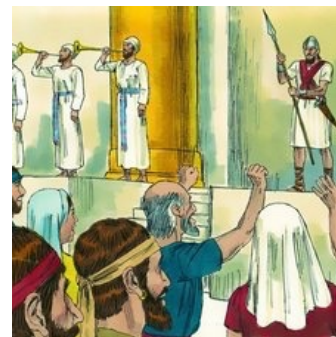
Any time you hear a prayer going up from this congregation like that one, you will know that person needs a Revival in his soul desperately. God is not a million miles away from a person in such a bad shape. As David prayed for a Revival amongst the people of God — and also included himself — do you not feel that it is about time for us to be praying this prayer likewise?

In the days of King Josiah, the people of God had been cooling off, neglecting the House of The Lord, living in sin, and running after worldly pleasures. But prayer meetings were started, and a waiting upon the Lord for a Revival.

In the reign of King Asa, the people so longed for an old-fashioned Revival that they got real desperate before God in earnest prayer. They noticed there were some who did not feel the same concern, thereby delaying the move of God in bringing Revival. So they passed a law saying:

2 Chronicles 15:13: That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

Do you know what happened? No, they were not branded fanatics or called “gone crazy over religion”. They got so blessed and happy in the Lord that they shouted and blew trumpets and cornets, and all Judah rejoiced at the oath. For they had sworn with all their heart, and sought Him with their whole desire, and He was found of them, ***and the Lord gave them rest!!***



2 Chronicles 15:12-15:

12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;

13 That whosoever would not seek the Lord God of Israel should be put

to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

¹⁴ And they swore unto the Lord with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.

¹⁵ And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought Him with their whole desire; and He was found of them: and the Lord gave them rest round about.

Hosea looked at the spiritual condition of the children of Israel in his day, and poured it on and said: *“Break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek The Lord till He come and rain righteousness upon us.”*



Hosea 10:12: Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till He come and rain righteousness upon you.

Hosea must have been a farmer. He knew that after he had harvested that crop and laid it up, that during the long winter the ground had gotten hard or had a crust over it. He knew that the farmer would have to go out and break up that ground and get it ready for planting seed so that he might have another harvest.

The church that experiences a Revival must also break up the stony ground of our hearts. We need to get rid of the sins and bad habits, just like the farmer gets rid of the weeds and thorns and briars. We must get rid of those broken promises to God and broken pledges which we have made to God but have not kept. We must also make things right with our fellow man whom we have wronged.

We must pray if we are going to have a Revival. When Zion travails and the church prays and agonizes before God for souls, she shall bring forth sons and daughters. I am calling you to prayer. I am asking you to fast one meal on Wednesday as your meal for spiritual Revival. For God is alive and on His throne, and He still hears and answers prayer.

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a Revival.**

When our church loses its sensitivity to the lostness of our families and to the spiritual need of a perishing world — or even our next door neighbors — we need to pray for Revival in our *own* souls.

Remember the man by the name of Samson who lost his anointing, lost the

Spirit, and lost his power? As he went out, he didn't even know that the Spirit was departed from him. The enemy took him and gouged out his eyes, lashed his back, and made him to grind at their grist mill.



Judges 16:18-21:

18 And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath showed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.

19 And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.

20 And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

21 But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

But you also remember that he prayed and cried out to the Lord in his affliction, and God restored him and caused his hair to grow back again after he was shaved. He won a greater victory in the close of his life than he had ever won in all his lifetime.

Judges 16:28-30:

28 And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray Thee, and strengthen me, I pray Thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.

29 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.

30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.



I'm believing for the greatest spiritual move of the Holy Spirit to produce the

needed Revival before Jesus shall return. In these last days of this Holy Ghost Dispensation, the Lord said: ***It shall come to pass that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh***".

Joel 2:28: And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

I believe it. I believe God is able to pour forth of His Spirit and give a spiritual Revival. You who are sitting in these seats and are looking up here at me and are not concerned about the Gospel of Jesus Christ, or the soon Return of the Lord, or your obedience to the Great Commission, we are here to help you to pray through to a Revival in your soul. Then you will love souls, will have compassion on the lost, and will want to see them saved. If you believe this, say AMEN!



Now don't take this message with a pitch fork and pitch it over to someone else, saying that just fits old man Jenkins, or Sister Aubishon needs that, or my wife needs that. Get your rake, rake it in, and say: *I need a personal Revival!*

INVITATION:

Let every head be bowed, and close your eyes in a moment of prayer. While every head is bowed and every eye is closed be honest. How many of you will say: *"I am prayed up, packed up, and ready to go up? There is no doubt, no fear, not a sin, not a habit, nothing between me and the Lord; and if Jesus will come right now, or my heart were to quit beating, I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that I am ready to meet God."*



How many of you are sure of that? May I see your hand? You may take it down. I want to pray a special prayer now for every person that could not lift your hand. But you may say: *"I believe in prayer, but I could not lift my hand and say I am ready if Jesus were to come. But I'd like to be sure, and I believe in prayer. As you pray this special prayer, pray for me."*

Father in Heaven, I come to You now. I confess that I am a sinner. I know that I have done many wrong and sinful things. I cannot change myself, but You can change me. I ask You to help me. Thank

You, Jesus, for dying for my sins. Thank You for taking my punishment for me. Please forgive me now. Please take my sins away. Make me a Child of God. I accept You now as my own Saviour. I will love You, and all my life I will live for You; and if necessary, I will die for You. Change my life and make me pure and holy as You are. In Jesus' Name. Amen

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