

YOU ARE REVIVAL



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Jesus is not an idol on a cross.

He's not a picture on a pane glass window.

He's not a theology.

He's not just a historical figure.

He's alive and well and living in me!

He knows you and wants to be known by you.

He loves you and gave His life for you so that you may have life and life more abundantly.

Will you let Him in? Will you cry out to Him for Him to wash away your sins, take away the anguish of your soul and make all things new?

Jesus is real and He is here.

Will you experience Him today for yourself?

Will you make a decision today to give your whole life to Him?

-M.S.

Chapter 2 - Historic Revival

Habukuk 3:2

*2O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD,
revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make
known; in wrath remember mercy.*

Revival is proclaiming and walking out the revelation of the True
Gospel, The New Covenant.

-M.S.

It gives me great pleasure to read about the great "moves of God" in the past. First and foremost through His Church, by the power and leading of the Holy Spirit, in the book of Acts. Later, also, after the dark ages and Reformation periods, in it's many wonderful expressions over the last few centuries. To hear how Methodism started and even the Salvation Army, both birthed from wonderful moves of God gives me goosebumps. To read about Azusa street, the Welsh revival, and many other subsequent revivals in India, China, and Hebrides are just overwhelming to my Spirit. My heart rejoices with each and ever testimony of the works of God's grace for the salvation of mankind and even His hand moving in miracle-working power over people and even regions. I dare not leave out the Great Awakenings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. God has truly moved powerfully throughout history!

God also has used many men and women of God over the years to usher in and in many cases simply ride the wave of what He was doing through them in their respective generations. Let us not forget the exploits of David Brainerd who ministered powerfully and sacrificially to the American Indians in the 1700s.

Let us remember the likes of John Knox, the Scottish Reformer; John Wesley, The Founder of Methodism; and Jonathan Edwards, one of the earliest American Revivalist who helped usher in the First Great Awakening. Let's not forget the great lawyer turned Preacher Revivalist Charles Finney, or one of the first great American Evangelists, D.L. Moody. What about those men of God who helped lead great revival outpourings like Evan Roberts of the great Welsh revival of 1904? What about William Seymour who led arguably the most famous revival outpouring of all time shortly after this in a warehouse on Azusa street in Los Angeles? We honor great men of faith over the past hundred years like Smith Wigglesworth, R.A. Torrey, A.B. Simpson, Charles Price, all the way through the tent Revivalists of the fifties like William Branham, Orel Roberts and A.A. Allen. All are certainly worth studying and reading about. These were men of God who helped shape history. We owe them much credit as forefathers of Pentecostalism and Revival. We honor their lives and their memory.

There are modern day Revivalists like Randy Clark, Rodney Howard-Browne, and many others whose ministries I follow and learn from. There are modern-day revivals that have swept through South America through the likes of Carlos Annacondia and Claudio Freidzon. Guatemala and many parts of Africa are experiencing supernatural favor and blessing. God is even moving powerfully in Pakistan and other middle east countries. **The Gospel cannot be stopped and God's Spirit is being poured out on all flesh!**

There are countless unsung heros of revival throughout history and even living today that it would take years to write about all of them and give them credit for living the lives of faith that they lived. These include intercessors, preachers, missionaries, and just "average-Joe" Christians from throughout history. Heaven is filled with the annals of their exploits. In many ways this book is dedicated to those heros of the faith that we may never read about and never know until the day we join our eternal family and pass from this life to the next.

However, this book on Revival is not about revivals of the past. This book is not historic in nature in any way other than my many references to Biblical foundations for which I make my case for present day revival. This book is about an awareness of God's heart and will for revival that can be and should be experienced now by any who will believe in faith.

Do you believe in revival?

There are basically five categories that people can fit into when it comes to understanding Biblical and present day revival.

1. Unbelievers who don't know what it is and don't care
2. Modern-day Pharisees who are so bound by religion that won't even consider a Spirit-led reformation of their religious systems and traditions.
3. Believers who don't understand and don't care about revival [Sunday morning-only Christians or "Chreasters" (Christians on Christmas and Easter)].
4. Believers who love the idea of revival, study it and even pray for it but consider it something they will likely never see in their lifetimes because it is so rare.
5. Believers who are simply lovers of Jesus, follow the Spirit and love anything to do with seeing the Kingdom manifest on earth. They are not too stuck on one viewpoint of anything theological or of the Kingdom, they simply receive and follow the promises of God's word.

Although we may not be able to communicate to the religious about the idea of revival (even Jesus who was walking revival was rejected by religious authorities), I believe all other viewpoints above can receive the revelation of and be touched by true revival in this life. When true revival breaks out in a believer's life the people in the fifth category are usually the first to receive and walk in it. Many Nonbelievers and Sunday morning Christians can and will likely get touched by a newfound awareness of heaven through the many fire-filled believers who are burning with the flame of revival. Despite these positive signs for many people I'm fearfully aware that the believers in category four above who love God and who love the idea of revival may be the second hardest group to truly embrace God's revival today.

Many of the same people who believe we can pray desperate prayers until God blesses us with revival are the same people who believe that revival is a completely sovereign God-experience that can only happen if we have found enough favor with our Father in heaven and happen to live at the right time and worship in the right place for God to grace our church and community with this wonderful heaven on earth experience. **When you think that you can pray and God will hear you and answer your prayers why would you also think that God would stay**

His holy hand and not give you any good gift that you would ask for? This message is a contradictory one and not in alignment with God's heart and will. It lacks understanding of God's ways and His heart toward people. Not only that but it shows a lack of knowledge regarding God's sovereign will to use His Church here on earth to usher in His Kingdom rule and authority in the midst of His enemies until He brings all things to judgment and reconciliation under Himself.

Many are waiting around for revival to happen. Others are praying until they're blue in the face twelve hours a day. Both sets of people tend to agree that revival is an overwhelming compelling force of supernatural proportions so obviously God that it literally leads to community-wide awareness of God and our own sin. This awareness of God leads us to repentance because we are painfully aware that because of our sinful condition we cannot survive in His presence, a presence that now appears to be more real than ever.

What's this got to do with me?

Not many would argue that the above description describes true historic revival. However, what we all must understand is that when God moves in a person a city or a community it was someone's prayer, somewhere that broke through the spiritual fallow ground of the person's heart or sinful condition of the region. In the case of historic revival it is often many people who get this revelation and who are entering into God's wonderful intercession and blessing of revival of regions through an outpouring from His Church. This is more reason why we are to understand the power of true intercession. God's Spirit draws His intercessors into deep places of sharing His burdens and praying down His will sometimes long before we see that will manifest.

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I challenge any historian to show me historic revival that was not traced back somehow to a few of these brave chosen prayer warriors of God's. Please correct me if this isn't true but I have never read about a historic revival in the contemporary meaning of the term that has not been traced back to one man (or woman) or one group of people that prayed it in or otherwise ushered it in somehow.

What should this reveal to us? It shows us that we have a personal responsibility when it comes to revival. Revival isn't a

completely sovereign God ordained experience in time anymore than your personal prayer time this morning was. God gives grace when we seek Him but first He must be sought.

Psalm 27-

8 My heart says of you, "Seek his ^[a] face!"

Your face, LORD, I will seek.

He has given man free will and His Spirit free reign.

The key is when we reach a Oneness in heart with God and His Spirit then we can begin to receive God's grace for true revival.

The level of God's response in relation to His people's passionate pleas may be sovereign but one of the most fundamental points of understanding about what revival is or isn't and your relationship to revival is that it requires your faith, your prayers, and your obedience through a close relationship with God.

So why has revival become something to build altars toward and talk about as long ago ancient history? My opinion is that like many things of the Kingdom once man tries to figure it out they make it too hard. We have made the very thought of revival a sacred thing and immediately assume any revival we hear about cannot possibly be true revival like the revivals of old. We as humans have a tendency to build up historical revival as some unattainable myth like rare supernatural unicorn sighting. We act like revival is some random blessing that is almost completely unattainable.

There was a time when people thought of the same thing regarding the Baptism of the Spirit and speaking in tongues. In fact, for only a little over a hundred years have we believed as a Church that this is a ready and attainable experience for all believers that is of great importance to our spiritual life. Could we now be making the same dire mistake when we think about revival subtly believing that this is unattainable and we'll never see it anyway so why pursue it? In this time literally over a hundred million believers have been baptized in the Spirit in a little over 100 years! I believe this worldwide revival outpouring will have an equally dramatic affect on the next few generations of believers!

Do you truly believe that God has set aside only certain times in history and for certain locations on the map for Him to manifest His presence and Kingdom?! If so you are gravely unaware of God's heart. He desires revival more than we do! He

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desires to pour out His Spirit upon all flesh (1)! He desires that none should perish (2)! When will we understand? **Historic revivals did not occur because God pre-ordained revival for just that particular time in history, they occurred because people tapped into God's eternal never-changing will.**

Can I really see revival for myself?

So how then does someone receive salvation? They believe in faith. How then does someone receive the Baptism of the Spirit? They believe in faith. How then do people receive revival? You get the picture.

It is time we debunk the myths of revival and press in to God's Kingdom. If revival is such an unattainable and mystical experience in your mind you likely will never see it. Even if it landed on your head and wiggled around like a ground-worm you wouldn't know. Everything of the Kingdom must be received in faith like a child.

The first step to entering into revival is to receive it in our hearts. We must rebuke and repent of powerless religion and receive God's revelations about Jesus and His Kingdom. Then we let the transforming affects of God's Spirit and presence in our lives to burst through our hearts to give a refreshing flood of an outpouring of God's love to the world around us. When we start living with this level of a radical burning love, full of faith and fire, overflowing with the Spirit of God, people will surely believe that revival is possible and is God's will. It's really not as hard as you may think.

Is revival Sovereign? You bet. But God has sovereignly chosen to use His Church to usher in His will on earth. He has also sovereignly given us free will. Revival starts with our Spirit-led intercession and ends with our courageous acts of faith. Will you take this journey with me to understand and experience what revival really is?

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How many potential revival moves throughout history were lost because man didn't respond adequately to what God was wanting to say and do? God-forbid if this be said of this generation. Not on my watch! Remember, when God wants to move, He moves through man. Man's prayers and man's efforts. Don't mistake this for for

thinking that you can control the supernatural aspect of what God does but when He wants to do something although Sovereign as it may seem, God implores His people by divinely leading those willing to listen to Him. You must be willing and ready if you want revival in your life and in your community!

QUESTIONS:

Q. What are some characteristics that most people associate with Historical Revival? Is there any reason why these things couldn't happen today?

Q. Do you believe it is God's will to move as powerfully or more powerfully today than He has in the past? Why or why not?

Q. Do you believe that revival is possible for you to experience now? Why or why not?

Prayer (you to God)-

God we bless and honor all of the revival moves of the past, the Revivalist of the past and present and any and all unsung heroes of the faith that only You know. We thank You for moving so wonderfully in their lives to bring Your blessings to the world around them. We thank You for using them to usher in Your will through their prayers and actions of faith. Lord, we believe that You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. We believe that You desire for none to perish and that Your Spirit be poured out on all flesh.

Prayer (me to God, over you)-

God we receive the burden of Your heart to see our generation come to know You. We will not be silent when we see the devil trying to ruin Your harvest. God let us cry out like the Moravians to win for You the ransom of Your suffering! God strengthen us, empower us, free us from any bondage that can hold us back. Open our hearts and minds to receive from Your revelation as we continue on this journey through the pages of this book.

Endnotes:

1-Joel 2:28

2-2 Peter 3:9