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* Welcome all in house and online!
* Thank Roger, Alyssa & all who served in my absence.
* Thank all for your prayers.
* Prayer requests
  + Alyssa - Sick
  + Judy Dunn is in the Hospital with an issue with her blood they think
* Announcements

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The Signs of Revival

Acts 2:36-47

2/26/23

The idea of revival originates in the reality that, on the one hand, God is the decisive giver of all spiritual life and, on the other hand, humans, even those who are born again and part of God’s covenant family, from time-to-time drift into a kind of lifelessness and lethargy and backsliding and indifference and weakness. And when you put those two together — God as the giver of life and man as ever drifting towards lifelessness — what you get is the need for the hope of reviving, coming back to life — a fresh outpouring of God’s live-giving Spirit on his people. That is what revival is.

* The word “Revive” comes from the Latin roots re-, meaning “again,” and vivere, meaning “to live.” So, the word revive means “live again.” In order for something to be revived, something must be lackluster or fading out.
* Revival means “making alive again those who have been alive, but have fallen into what is called a cold, stagnate, or dead, state. They are Christians and have life, but they need reviving to bring them back to their first love and spiritual health. Revival is not the work of man, an evangelist, or anything else, but it is exclusively the work of the Holy Spirit.

“God is the decisive giver of all spiritual life, so we should always be asking for a fresh outpouring of his live-giving Spirit.”

Examples of prayers for revival we can find:

* Psalm 85:6, *“Won’t you revive us again, so your people can rejoice in you?”*
* Habakkuk 3:2, *“I have heard all about you, Lord. I am filled with awe by your amazing works. In this time of our deep need, help us again as you did in years gone by. And in your anger, remember your mercy.”*
* Psalm 80:18, *“Then we will never abandon you again. Revive us so we can call on your name once more!”*
* Isaiah 57:15, “*The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: “I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts.”*

And alongside those passages about reviving, you read the history of Israel — and it is just one up-and-down after the other. One king is wicked, and God withholds his blessing or sends judgment. Another king recovers godliness and there is a reviving and an awakening of true worship for a season. And up and down it goes. And when you turn to the New Testament, even though the period of time is really short between Jesus’s resurrection and the close of the New Testament we do get glimpses already of churches that were in need of reviving.

I think the book of Hebrews was written to a church that was tired and fading. You hear it in Hebrews 5:12a, “*You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God’s word*.

Or, Hebrews 12:12-13, “*So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. 13 Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak, and lame will not fall but become strong.*” It’s seems as you read that this is a church that is already drooping and has become TIRED. It is already dragging. It has gotten tired already and needs reviving.

When you read the prayers of Paul in his letters, they read just like prayers that would be made for churches that are drifting into lifelessness. His prayer in Eph. 3:16-19 should bring a reviving, challenging, awakening, renewing effect on all of us! Paul prays like this:

* *6 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. 18 And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.*

This prayer, to have power, to comprehend the height and depth and length of Gods love; to be filled with all the fullness of God, should be our hearts cry because of how short we fall and continually fall of being filled with all the fullness of God.

Why Revival?

Church revivals serve two, main purposes:

(1) to revitalize & reawaken the spiritual life of its members both together and individually

(2) to gain new followers

A church revival involves a group of Christians praying and seeking the Holy Spirit's presence together while rejoicing over a renewed spiritual enthusiasm. When God draws near in revival, the soul is turned inside out. One's spirit is suddenly confronted with just how sinful sin really is. When Isaiah drew near to God, conviction for sin which he had never before known suddenly erupted from within his heart (Isa. 6:1).

How does Revival come about?

Revival often begins with people coming under deep conviction and crying out in confession and repentance for their sins.

* **Revival does not occur outside of the atmosphere of prayer.** Revival comes from prayer!!!
* Today's church needs an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Early church leaders like Luther, Wesley, Finney and Moody were filled and refilled with the Holy Spirit. Prayer like theirs was the powerful key to every revival throughout Christian history.

What are the true signs of revival?

*36 “So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”*

*37 Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”*

*38 Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

*39 This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.”*

*40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”*

*41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.*

*42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.*

*43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.*

*44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.*

*45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.*

*46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity.*

*47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.*

Note the signs of TRUE revival in this passage:

* **Emphasis on Jesus** 
  + Acts 2:36 - *“So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”*
  + Acts 5:30-31 *- The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead after you killed him by hanging him on a cross. 31 Then God put him in the place of honor at his right hand as Prince and Savior. He did this so the people of Israel would repent of their sins and be forgiven.*

**The very reason we have an opportunity for revival is because of Jesus and the cross!**

* **Repentance** 
  + Acts 2:37-38 – 37 *Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” 38 Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
  + *Acts 16:30-31 - 30 Then he brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” 31 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.”*
  + *Mark 16:16 Jesus says – “Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.”*

**With true revival, people experience conviction for their sins and repent and change their lifestyles. They not only walk away from patterns of sin, but they turn their attention away from petty entertainments to spend more time in pursuit of God and live a new life!**

* **A passion for prayer** 
  + Acts 2:42 - *All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.*
* **Hunger for the Word** 
  + Acts 2:42 - *All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.*

**Roger nailed it last week with the list of ways you can see if you are drifting away. #1 & #2 your passion for the Word & Prayer! If you have no passion to do either of these, or just get by with the bare minimum, you made in danger of fading out. Revival changes this...With revival comes a new excitement and refreshment of reading God’s Word and anticipation to pray as we come before the very Creator of our lives with our praise and requests!**

* **A burden for the lost** 
  + Acts 2:40 - *Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”*
  + *Acts 26:28 - To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*

**When someone says that God has given them a "burden for the lost," it means that they feel a strong sense of responsibility and desire to share their faith with those who do not yet know Jesus Christ as their savior. This burden may manifest as a sense of urgency to share the gospel message and deep compassion for those who are not yet saved.**

**It is often accompanied by a desire to pray for the lost or to study the Bible more to be better equipped to share the gospel and to be actively involved in evangelism and missions.**

**This burden is a spiritual calling, it's a sense of empathy, concern, and care for those who are not yet saved.**

* **Increase in salvations** 
  + Acts 2:41 - *Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.*
  + Acts 2:47 - *all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.*

**If you look at what is going on around the campuses today, you are seeing a hunger for something that the world can’t give. People are going into bible studies with the heart set, I’m not leaving the way I came. I need something real; I am hungry for what I see and read and hear about from the Word of God! I want to experience what they did!**

**When the heart becomes hungry for something that can truly fulfill the heart, then you see salvations. And it spreads as others see the realness and genuineness of hearts that are converting!**

* **A surge in callings to ministry and missions** 
  + Acts 4:20 - *Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”*
  + *Matt. 28:19-20 - Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

**When I was 22 or so, it was in a revival service that God called me into the Youth Ministry. I remember it like it was yesterday.**

**A revived heart will be tender to the call God has for you, no matter where it takes you. Your desire will be to further the Gospel into the “highways & hedges”!**

Closing:

“My heart cry is to be filled with all the fullness of God because I know I fall far short of it.” I know that I need to always be close to the Father, so I can be that which He has called me and purposed to be. Sometimes the winds of life, stress, and exhaustion can and will try to douse the fire that is in your heart. Thus, the need for TRUE REVIVAL! But when we become revived, we need to stay close to the fire as not to allow things to douse it again...

True Revival will bring LASTING CHANGE, not temporary change. REVIVAL SHOULD NOT BE JUST A TEMPORARY MOMENT WHERE WE ARE EXCITED FOR A FEW DAYS OR WEEKS AND THEN BACK TO NORMAL. Revival is to REVIVE, REFRESH, AND AWAKE THE EMBERS OF OUR HEARTS THAT HAVE FADED DUE TO OUR ALLOWING THE WORLD, THE ENEMY, AND OUR SELVES TO DOUSE OUT! WE NEED TO KEEP THE FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AS RAGING FIRE IN THIS DAY WE LIVE!!

In the history of the church, the term revival in its most biblical sense has meant a sovereign work of God in which many...

* Have been lifted out of spiritual indifference and worldliness into conviction of sin,
* Develop earnest desires for more of Christ and his Word
* Show more boldness in their witness
* Engage in purity of life
* Are converted by the Holy Spirits convictions!
* Joyful and pure worship
* Renewed commitment to missions.

God is moving, as He always has. The difference now is that people are finally doing what God said to do the whole time...

* James 4:8 - *Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.*

Are you ready for TRUE revival in your hearts, in this church, in our community, state, nation?

Are you hungry to move where God wants to move in your life?