

Destination REVIVAL!

There are many different ideas and understanding of what revival really means. What is revival? How does it begin? Why does it usually not continue beyond the special emphasis meetings?

Revival is the unencumbered flow of God's power focused on bringing us into a new place in Him, giving us a new revelation of who He is. God restores those things that have been dead in our lives, naturally and spiritually. Revival is about re-relationship, relationship with God.

In these last days we are hearing of revival fires all over the nation and world. Many towns and cities are having wonderful outpourings of God's blessings. We are reminded of Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Florida, Toronto, Canada, and Smithton, MO. The testimonies and stories that came out of these revivals have been tremendous. Praise be to God for evermore! But there are many places where the fire of revival is not happening and these places remain dead and dry spiritually. Places where religion is flourishing; but a true move of God, uncontrolled and unhindered by man does not exist. If we truly want revival, we must begin to do the things that are conducive to having revival.

Before we begin let me point out two things that are very vital.

First, there is a cost to pay for God to move in our midst. I personally believe, that the reason the cost seems greater now; is that,

if we had stayed alive, rooted, and unmovable in God; we would not be needing revival. Instead, we would be ushering in the end time harvest. God has never changed. If we are obedient to do what He requires of us, then revival, is a sure thing.

The second thing that we need to understand is that each revival is not exactly the same. We have heard each revival is unique to the location. God has His plan for what He wants done in each city, town, nation, and in every part of the world. Each on-going revival can be a blessing to each of us; but, we cannot limit God in thinking our revival will be exactly the same as another. Be ready and excited about what God will do in your life and in your city. Hold fast to the common threads of revival, salvation, healing, miracles, deliverance, and freedom from bondages, and trust God for the rest.

To revive means to make alive again. Taking one from a position of "needing life" to a state of "fullness of life." The very meaning of the word commands transformation. Revival pertains to every aspect of our existence; spirit, soul and body. It will bring salvation, healing, and deliverance to anyone ready to receive. A true revival is not two weeks of meetings and then its over. But revival should begin and last until Jesus comes.

The first question we must ask ourselves, **DO WE REALLY WANT REVIVAL?** Are we comfortable with the way things

are? Are we satisfied with our place of status quo? Are we fearful of what God might do or what He might require of us? Are we afraid of the unknown or what appears unknown? Are we afraid of losing control? Are we available for revival? Do we have the time in our busy schedules to fit in a revival? The questions could go on and on; but, these few are here to bring to your attention this thought. The biggest reason we do not have a fresh move of God; is that in our hearts, we really do not want to be revived, or to be changed.

God will have revival on the earth and His glory will fill the earth as He promised in His Word. There will be a harvest even bigger than what is happening around the world right now. To be a part of the end time move of God, is up to us. We can choose to be a part of the revival or we can choose to stay as we are. Either choice we make will affect our future and our destiny.

Revival is radical, and brings about radical changes. When it happens you cannot allow things to go back as they were before. When God moves and brings revival; to go back to the old ways, old thinking, old methods, old structure would be an insult to God. When God shows up and by His Spirit brings revival; we **MUST** keep on being revived, and refuse to go back as we were.

If revival is going to remain there are some things that must be done and continued. Here are four points I believe are very important in bringing revival into our lives.

First and foremost, we must **REPENT** of sin. Repentance is the basis for revival. If true repentance is experienced then revival is a natural process. Repenting is not just being sorry we were caught; repentance is a 180 degree turn, changing direction completely and not returning to our former path. To repent says to God, "I humble myself before you; I confess that I have sinned, I need to be forgiven and I need to be changed."

Hebrews 12:1 says for us to lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us. The word "beset" means, to surround or hem in, to attack from all sides. What is it that besets you? Is it anger, complacency or laziness? Is it criticalness, unforgiveness or a half-hearted relationship with God? What about disobedience, lying, or unbelief. What ever the sin, God honors your repentance, humility and your obedience. These are key elements to revival. When the woman caught in adultery was brought to Jesus, no one could cast a stone at her. He told her to go and sin no more. (Matthew 8:4-11) She repented and her life was revived.

Dealing with sin is not an option. We can no longer afford to remain in sin, or allow sin to dominate any area of our lives. God sent His son Jesus, to pay the price for our sin. We have the power living in us to deal with and

eradicate the dominion of sin in our lives.

All we have to do is come to God, better yet, run to God, repent and confess our sins before him. At that point revival has begun.

Second thing that brings revival is **PRAYER**. God told us that we have not because we ask not or we ask wrongly. (James 4:2,3) We have got to ask God for revival. II Chronicles 7:14 says **IF** we will pray, turn from our wicked ways, seek His face then He will heal our land. We can no longer put prayer on the back burner. It has to become of major importance in our daily lives. It must become a lifestyle, not just a duty, or a meaningless discipline. Prayer must become so much a part of our daily routine that we do not have to even think to pray, we do it automatically. We have many opportunities for prayer. We must make a determined effort to get involved in prayer, to be a part of calling on God for revival.

Third, we must **EXPECT** revival. One of the key ingredients in revival is faith. God is pleased with faith. (Hebrews 11:6) We must believe that God will bring revival to us; right where we live, right into our own living rooms; and change anything in our lives that needs His touch. We must act like it, talk like it, and continue to

stand on what God said He would do. Start expecting God to move in every service of your church.

God will not disappoint us if we approach Him in the way He desires. Put your expector in high gear and believe that the first person who will be hit with a manifestation of God's revival is **YOU**.

Fourth, we must be **SENSITIVE** to the move of God. We cannot in anyway hinder or control the move of God. If we are in any leadership capacity, we must let God have His way. We must be willing to let go, give up, or lay down anything that we might do that would hinder the move of God. We cannot allow ourselves to become critical of what God is doing; just because it is not what we are used to, or is not the way we have always done things. God knows exactly what we need and knows exactly how to bring it to pass in our lives.

Let the Holy Spirit have the freedom He desires in our lives, and in our churches. When we do, our freedom will astound us and the revival we experience, will bring us into a fresh relationship with God. We will be revived. We will be changed. We will become what God intends for us to be; on fire, full of power, restored, and ready to gather the end time harvest.

Repent, pray, expect and be sensitive; remembering that revival begins with you and begins with me.

GOD REVIVE US NOW AND USE US FOR YOUR GLORY AND YOUR HONOR.

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