

In Search of Biblical Revival

Preparing for Revival: Meeting God's Conditions (Part 2)

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Message Truth:

God has always known that His people would need times of revival. The blessing of revival is God's to give as He sovereignly chooses. In His mercy and grace He first told Moses the conditions His people must meet for Him to send revival. Further, God told Joshua His purpose in bringing such times of revival to His people. Revival is not simply to be selfishly kept for our own purpose, but is rather a tool which God uses to evangelize all of the earth and to bring the fear of the Lord to all the peoples of the earth. Finally, God gave Solomon His conditions for sending revival to His people. Read as an extension of the re-digging the wells metaphor we could say that God gives Solomon the process whereby we may re-dig the spiritual wells of revival.

Message Text:

¹ "So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, ² and you **return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul** according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, ³ then the LORD your God will **restore you** from captivity, and **have compassion on you**, and will **gather you again from all the peoples** where the LORD your God has scattered you. Deuteronomy 30:1-3 (NASB)

- Revival is a tool which God has used to **refresh** and **restore** His people since their inception.
- **Conditions** must meet before the times of refreshing may come.

God could sovereignly bestow revival upon us, but He chooses to allow us free will, giving us a role to play, as He has also chosen to use us in preaching the Gospel to all peoples in all the nations.

- **As He related to His covenant people, God has always presumed and provided for the potential of revival.**

²¹ He said to the Israelites, "**In the future when your descendants ask their fathers, 'What do these stones mean?'** ²² **tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'** ²³ **For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over.** ²⁴ **He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God."**

Joshua 4:21-24 ¹

- **The need for revival is constant because each new generation must learn of God's mighty acts and His eternal purposes for themselves.**

¹Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Revival*, "Expecting Revival, Characteristics of Revival, The Purpose of Revival"

Revival - a work of grace affected by the spirit of God upon the souls of men. (A revival presupposes the existence of real spiritual religion, as understood and taught by evangelical Christians.)

Solomon's dedicatory prayer of the temple in Jerusalem provides us with the most famous revival text in Scripture.

¹² Then the LORD appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ "If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ and **My people** who are called by My name **humble** themselves and **pray** and **seek** My face and **turn** from their wicked ways, **then I will hear** from heaven, will **forgive** their sin and will **heal** their land.

¹⁵ "Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place. ¹⁶ "For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that My name may be there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. 2 Chronicles 7:12–16 (NASB)

● **God's conditions for revival include:**

- **Be His child**
- **Humble yourself**
- **Pray**
- **S _____ His face**
- **Turn from w _____**

The psalmist warns,

¹⁸ *If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.* Psalm 66:18 (ESV)

The Holy Spirit will not work freely among those who carry grudges and harbor resentment.

²³ "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. **First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.** Matthew 5:23–24

²⁰ He went on: "**What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.'** ²¹ **For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,** ²² **greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.** ²³ **All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'** " Mark 7:20–23

¹⁹ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: **sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures,** ²⁰ **idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division,** ²¹ **envy, drunkenness, wild parties,** and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19–21 (NLT)

⁵ Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. Revelation 2:5