

In Search of Biblical Revival

The Revival of Jacob

Sunday, February 27, 2011

Pastor Warner Smith

Message Truth:

Last Sunday you and I began the process of putting away our idols and consecrating ourselves before the Lord. As a result, God's Spirit was mighty in this place. Where do we go from here? How do we continue what has begun? First, like Jacob we need to hear the word of the Lord. We must have a desire to live in God's presence. We must change anything in our life that is preventing us from giving Christ first place. As Christians who are part of a church family, we must also give serious attention to our own attendance whenever the family gathers. Like Jacob and his family we must consecrate ourselves. Where we find that we are in error and have broken fellowship with God or a fellow believer, these broken relationships must be mended. Finally, we need to understand that these inner decisions and attitudes will affect how we present ourselves to the world. Revival can be our reality. We must, however, be willing to meet God's requirements.

Message Text:

¹ Then **God said to Jacob, "Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau."** ² So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes." ³ Then come, **let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone.**" ⁴ **So they gave Jacob all**

the foreign gods they had and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem. ⁵ **Then they set out, and the terror of God fell upon the towns all around them so that no one pursued them.** ⁶ Jacob and all the people with him came to Luz (that is, Bethel) in the land of Canaan. ⁷ There **he built an altar**, and he called the place El Bethel, because it was there that God revealed himself to him when he was fleeing from his brother. ⁸ Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died and was buried under the oak below Bethel. So it was named Allon Bacuth. ⁹ After Jacob returned from Paddan Aram, God appeared to him again and blessed him. ¹⁰ God said to him, "Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel." So he named him Israel. ¹¹ And God said to him, "I am God Almighty; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will come from your body. ¹² The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you." ¹³ Then God went up from him at the place where he had talked with him. ¹⁴ Jacob set up a stone pillar at the place where God had talked with him, and he poured out a drink offering on it; he also poured oil on it. ¹⁵ Jacob called the place where God had talked with him Bethel. Genesis 35:1-15

1. God literally tells Jacob to go and I _____ at the house of God.
2. Jacob understands that living in God's presence requires that he and his family put away all i _____, p _____ themselves, and change their c _____.
3. Jacob understands that when he returns to Bethel his activity will be to build an a _____ to God.
4. As Christians, our I _____ is our altar to God.

¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1–2 (NASB)

5. Jacob's family o_____ him.

6. As a result of their o_____, the Lord p_____ them from their enemies.

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 7:13–16 (NASB)

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

- **Be His c** _____
- **Humble y** _____
- **P** _____
- **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

¹ "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. ² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. ⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵ Consider how far 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 2:1–5 (TNIV)