

# In Search of Biblical Revival

## The Need for Revival

Sunday, January 9, 2011

Pastor Warner Smith

### Message Truth:

The rule by which most Americans wish to live in all matters of religion today is “do as you see fit.” This attitude is identical to that which predominated Israel during the time of the Judges. Christianity in twenty-first century America is desperately in need of revival. Like Israel of old, we forsake God’s authority and everyone does as they see fit. Ancient Israel also illustrates the difference between “religious reformation” and “spiritual revival.” Spiritual reformation temporarily changes outward conduct; while revival permanently alters inward character. When Ehud judged Israel they followed God “and the land had rest for eighty years” (Judges 3:30b); but when Ehud died, once more the people obeyed their own desires. Christianity as currently practiced in the American Church needs more than a temporary reformation - we need a Holy Ghost led revival.

### Message Text:

<sup>23</sup> *If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you.*  
Proverbs 1:23

<sup>25</sup> *In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.*  
Judges 21:25

<sup>1</sup> *And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD after Ehud died.*  
Judges 4:1 (ESV)

**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.)

<sup>1</sup> *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.* <sup>2</sup> *My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*

Psalm 42:1-2a

<sup>28</sup> *After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”* <sup>29</sup> *He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”*  
Mark 9:28–29

**In the boy I see the world; in the disciples I see the church of today.**

### 1. “This k\_\_\_\_\_”

There is a difference between “this kind” and the kind with which you have been dealing before and with which you have been successful in the past.

### 2. Jesus goes on to say, “‘this kind’ can come forth by nothing b\_\_\_\_\_.”

### 3. “This kind” can come forth by nothing like this. By what then? “This kind” can come forth by nothing but p\_\_\_\_\_.

**We need a power that can enter into the souls of men and break them and smash them and humble them and then make them new.**

We must begin to seek this power and to pray for it. We must begin pleading and yearning for it, because “this kind” needs prayer.