

A MESSAGE IN VIEW OF REVIVAL
2 CHRONICLES 7:12-14

Introduction

Next Sunday morning Evangelist Richard Harper will be with us to begin a five day Revival meeting. I call it a Revival meeting because that is what I am praying the outcome of the meeting will be for many of us individually and for our Church corporately! I have not specifically talked with any of you about the meeting, but I know there are, no doubt, differing opinions about having a meeting such as this. Understand that our opinions can reveal the true condition of our hearts!

Understand that whether we have true Revival or not is NOT on the Evangelist, though he does have an important part in bringing the messages that the LORD lays on his heart to preach! But the preaching alone cannot bring about a Revival! Whether we have a Revival or not is on US!

In these days of apostasy and drift away from the things of God, we, as God's people, need a Revival in our hearts and lives individually...in our families...and in our Church!

We talk about how our nation needs Revival and that is needed! Amen! But understand that Revival starts individually in the hearts and lives of God's people and it spreads from there!

Our text this morning is one that is used when talking about the need for Revival in our nation! We can see from examining the passage that whether there is Revival or not in our nation rests on those of us who are God's people! (Yes, I know that this was speaking specifically of the nation of Israel, but there is also an application for us as God's people in our day!)

Some other classic Revival verses:

Psalm 85:6—“Wilt thou not **revive** us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?”

Psalm 138:7—“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt **revive** me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.”

Habakkuk 3:2 “O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, **revive** thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.”

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I. WHAT IS REVIVAL ?

Well, there are different aspects of revival that we need to consider:

A. Revival Will Bring A Time Of RECOGNITION And REALIZATION Of Sin!

(2 Chronicles 7:13 compared to 6:22ff)

Revival preaching is a lot of what the prophets of old did!

The purpose of Revival preaching is to open our eyes to our sinful attitudes, sinful actions and sinful habits that we have allowed into our lives.

Revival preaching will bring a realization of just how far we've wandered from God!

But Revival preaching will also at the same time bring a realization of the awesomeness of God!

C. Revival Will Bring A Time Of REPENTANCE and RENEWING!

“...shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways...”

A change of mind that brings forth a change in direction!

A prodigal coming home where he belongs!

A getting “plugged-back-in” so to speak in our spiritual life!
Psalm 51:10—“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and **renew a right spirit within me.**”

Romans 12:1-2—“1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God**, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

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Ephesians 4:22-24—“22 That ye **put off concerning the former conversation the old man**, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 **And be renewed in the spirit of your mind**; 24 **And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.**

- C. **Revival Can Be A REFRESHING And A RESTORING!**
Compare vs. 13 to the end of vs. 14 “...then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”
Bringing with it an renewed air of excitement and expectancy!

Getting back to things we have abandoned that we should have held on to...because we have gotten lax in our Christian walk!

Things like consistent *Bible reading and study, prayer, faithful Church attendance, faithful giving, faithful witnessing, concern for others!*

WHAT IS REVIVAL?

II. **WHAT SHOWS THAT WE NEED REVIVAL ?**

- A. **We Need Revival When We Become INDIFFERENT!**
Indifferent toward God and the things of God...
(Indifference in one area can lead to indifference in other areas!)

Indifferent toward the brethren... (John 13:34-35)

Indifferent toward the lost...

We get like the fellow who was asked what he thought about the **ignorance** and **apathy** in our society.
He said, “*I don’t know and frankly I don’t care!*”

Matthew 24:12 **And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**

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- B. **We Need Revival When We Display IMMATURITY!**
When we walk in the flesh rather than in the Spirit we display our immaturity and the lack of growing in grace and in the knowledge our Lord and Saviour that Peter commanded in *2 Peter 3:18*.

Paul rebuked the Believers at Corinth who were saved but walking in immaturity!

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 – “1 **And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.** 2 **I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.** 3 **For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?**”

Some were walking in some pretty vile ways and he reminded them:

1 Corinthians 6:11 “**And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.**”

Paul warned the Believers at Ephesus:

Ephesians 5:11 **And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.**

- C. **We Need Revival When We Become INDULGENT!**
When we’ve indulged ourselves in the things that bring us pleasure rather than the things that bring our Lord pleasure.
(1 Timothy 6:6-12)
- D. **We Need Revival When We Are Full Of INDECISION!**
When we know what the Lord wants us to do but we refrain from making a decision **to just do His will!**
We plan to do what the Lord wants us to do someday, but **someday never comes!**

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1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

III. WHEN DO WE NEED REVIVAL ?

Short answer...RIGHT NOW!

A. We Need Revival Anytime There Is A LACK OF CONCERN For Others—Both Lost and Saved!

B. We Need Revival Anytime There Is A LACK OF CONTROL in our lives!

- 1. Lack Of Self-Control! (Living undisciplined lives!)
The Bible word for a lack of self-control is “*Incontinent*.”**

The Bible word for having self-control is “*temperance*” which is a fruit of the Spirit.

- 2. Lack Of Spirit-Control! (We call the shots!)
It would do us good to review Galatians 5 frequently! What is predominant in our lives? The works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit?**

C. We Need Revival When There Is A LACK OF COMMITMENT!

Specifically a lack of commitment to the LORD and His work!

D. We Need Revival When There Is LACK OF CAUSE!

When we’ve lost our motivation to live for the LORD!

It is the picture given in 1 Samuel 17 when Israel’s army cowered in the face of the Philistine army and the giant Goliath! They had lost their motivation to fight!

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David came to the battlefield and saw what was happening and when he was accused by his brother Eliab of just coming to the battlefield to be a spectator he said, “*Is there not a cause?*”

IV. WHAT WILL GENUINE REVIVAL DO FOR US ?

A. Genuine Revival Will Make The LORD Real To Us Again!

When the fire of God fell on Mt. Carmel, there was a revival among God’s people.

1 Kings 18:39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

B. Genuine Revival Will Make The Bible Personal To Us Again!

The Bible is God’s love letter to us! Oh how we need to see that we need to live in this living Book! We need to get back to the Bible being essential in our daily living! Genuine revival will do that!

C. Genuine Revival Will Make Prayer Effectual And Fervent Again! James 5:16—“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*”

D. Genuine Revival Will Make Church Services A Priority Again! When genuine revival comes will see the importance! We will stop making lame excuses for missing Church that we know are just plain wrong!

Psalms 122:1—“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”

E. Genuine Revival Will Make Our Giving Wilful And Joyful!

2 Corinthians 9:7—“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

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F. Genuine Revival Will Make Us Have A New Concern For People!

- 1. There Will Be A New Concern For Those That Are Saved!**
- 2. There Will Be A New Concern For Those That Are Lost!**

Conclusion

Let's pray and ask God to send us a genuine revival in our hearts, in our families, in our Church, and in our nation!