
The Three R's of Revival

Remembrance, Repentance, and Revival

Revelation 2:1-7

Revival is not something you can foretell will happen, any more than you can foretell who is going to be saved. To announce "Revival Services" is presumptuous to say the least, though we may not mean it in that way. Mostly, including myself, we have used terminology and phraseology that we've heard others use, even those who are honorable people without thinking about what they really mean.

Revival is not something that we can work up with our flesh, or with lively music, lively preaching, lively singing, extended meetings, or increased religious activity. My point is that revival must emanate from our Sovereign God.

Revival is something we all could use. I believe it was Joe Wilson that gave an excellent definition of backsliding, if we are at a lower level than our highest level of spirituality, we have backslidden from that highest level of spirituality and godliness. Would your typical Olympic athlete be satisfied with winning the bronze medal and having at least a couple more Olympics to compete? I trow or think not. They labor intensely for a corruptible crown, how much more God's people should cry out to God for the incorruptible blessing of revival and to do all by God's grace to encourage revival.

Revival is something we all should pray for, seek after, using God's means of grace, such as, prayer, fasting, Scripture meditation, intensified Scripture application via evangelistic efforts, more consistent family devotions, etc...

Now, the 3 R's of Education is often called: Reading, 'Riting, and 'Rithmetic, as the most important basic skills that children need to learn in order to advance further in their education. Often these are neglected to make room for liberal agendas of socialism, new world order, and the like. Sometimes, as churches the 3 R's I am introducing are neglected.

I. The 1st R: A Longing Remembrance

- A.** Our memories are odd at times, we remember things we wished we could be forgotten, and forget things we wished we could remember. But, by and large, if something or someone is especially precious to us, we do remember. *Precious memories how they linger. How they ever flood my soul. In the stillness of the midnight, Precious, sacred scenes unfold.*
- B.** ***Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen,...***
- C.** My dad used to say when I pressed him to study and read the Bible more before he was saved, "I have enough trouble doing what I know right now".
- D.** Such rationalism doesn't fly however. It is like in the classroom, the more you are exposed to a certain subject, it is almost an osmosis effect takes place to some degree, it rubs off on you, the light turns on, and you see it, as a different perspective or insight of the same truth is brought forth.
- E.** The point is we need to remember what we do know, no need for a theological degree to have re-vival, as a matter of fact, that may quite possibly have a de-vival effort.
- F.** Hindrances: none or little Bible reading, church attendance, riches can be so beware,
- G.** The children of Israel had sacrifices and ordinances that were designed in part to serve their memories. To put them in remembrance of what the Lord had done for them.
- H.** God's churches have the Lord's Supper to put us in remembrance of Christ's death till He returns.
- I.** The gospel, as basic as it is, must be kept in remembrance, **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

- J.** Jonah in his backslidings, *Jonah 2:7* **When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.**
- K.** How? *John 14:26* **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**
- L.** How? *1 Corinthians 11:24-25* **And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.**
- M.** How? Through being in God's House to hear God's Word, *1 Timothy 4:6* **If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.**

- N. *John 2:22* When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.
- O. *Psalms 137:1* By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.
- P. *Psalms 78:35* And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer.

II. The 2nd R: A Lamenting Repentance

- A. *Revelation 2:4-5* Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.
- B. Repentance is not just being sorry for your sins, though that has the beginnings of repentance. Some people are just sorry they got caught.
- C. Repentance is not saying Hail Mary's, rosary, Our Father's, whipping yourself, or any kind of self-flagellation or self-inflicting punishment.
- D. Repentance has to do with turning away from sin and turning to God, as it is often referred in conjunction with turning, comfort, and sorrow.
- E. *See Acts 26:20* **But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.**
- F. *2 Corinthians 7:9-10* Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to

repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

- G.** When the Spirit of God is grieved within the child of God because of sin, it is grievous for that believer. But, once repentance sets in, the grievous nature of sin is relieved; therefore, repentance becomes therapeutic in nature, not as a thing to be avoided like the plague. The burdensomeness of sin is lifted. The guilt of sin is relieved when it is applied properly.
- H.** How? Remember God's goodness, ***Romans 2:4, Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*** Remember God's holy, just, and good law (***Romans 7:12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.***), and how good God is to save us.

III. The 3^d R: A Lasting Reverence

- A.** ***Revelation 2:4-5 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.***
- B.** Lasting reverence is more than merely having a longing remembrance, or even a lamenting repentance, but it involves the positive side of repentance which is to do the work, that is the ultimate goal of remembering and repenting, is

that it leads to a reverencing that involves obedience.

- C.** way 'eray אִירָאֵי-ray', Hebrew, v; AV-fear 188, afraid 78, terrible 23, terrible thing 6, dreadful 5, reverence 3, fearful 2, terrible acts 1, misc 8; 314; 1) to fear, revere, be afraid 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to fear, be afraid 1a2) to stand in awe of, be awed 1a3) to fear, reverence, honour, respect 1b) (Niphal) 1b1) to be fearful, be dreadful, be feared 1b2) to cause astonishment and awe, be held in awe 1b3) to inspire reverence or godly fear or awe 1c) (Piel) to make afraid, terrify 2) (TWOT) to shoot, pour
- D.** αἰδώς aidos ahee-doce', Greek, TDNT-1:169,26; n f; AV-shamefacedness 1, reverence 1; 2; 1) a sense of shame or honour, modesty, bashfulness, reverence, regard for others, respect
- E.** Look at the Apostle Peter, he remembered what? The Word of Jesus. He wept and repented. Then, on the Day of Pentecost he shown forth such a reverence to Christ, and what a revival was wrought among the saints, and salvation to sinners. Note, they prayed there until Pentecost, and then came a mighty refreshing and outpouring of God's Spirit. **Matthew 26:75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.**
- F.** Lasting Love, lasting Romance, the love, agape love, rekindled, self-sacrificing, selfless love, love of Christ is so remembered, sin so repented of, Christ so revered, that the love of Christ constrains us.
- G.** Maintained with a continual Longing Remembrance and Lamenting Repentance.

If you are not saved, you don't need a revival, you need a rebirth. Some professing Christians have not been made alive in Christ, much less revived in Christ.

Is Revival Desirable to you? It will be shown in your longing remembrance, a lamenting repentance, and a lasting reverence. See **Psalm 85:6 6 Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?**

The primitive root of this word *revive* is the word *chayah*, pronounced Hi-yah, as in a karate chop, and Greek word *dza-oh* carries with it the idea, "to breathe". Being that the life of an animate being is discerned by its breathing. The Holy Spirit in this context blowing through us as a rushing might wind as in **Acts 2** producing fruit meet for repentance and life, as opposed to the still and stagnant polluted air just hanging, not circulating or working or progressing in the atmosphere.