

~OUR REVIVAL HERITAGE~

Trinity Baptist Church

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Thoughts on Revival

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Part 4

Today we continue our study and reading about revival. What is revival? What is the purpose of revival? Who can experience a real revival for God?

Part of our church history, our heritage, is the fact that past generations and churches did experience a spiritual awakening! God does not love us any less today. God can and is willing to revive us again!

The scriptural conditions of II Chronicles 7:14 apply and work today, just like they did in the Welsh Revival or the Great Awakening! The Scripture is clear:

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Each of us can become dissatisfied with our spiritual walk. We can become burdened to step to the next level spiritually. To pray, "Oh God, please grow me up! Help me to see and understand what matters! Please God, take my eyes off men and things and keep them focused on you! Forgive my lack of concern, my lack of commitment, and my failure to read your Word and to pray!"

Each of us can become desperate for God to intervene in a crisis of life. Marriages coming apart, children caught up with the wrong crowd at school, or our grown children pulled into this world with its pleasures of sin for a season. We all have family and friends that will not listen to us, but would listen at the power and demonstration of the presence of God!

Elements that surface in our lives, families, or church will have these two markers. There will be an urgency and a desperation for God to invade our world. We can't, but God can change the circumstance.

“God, they will not listen to me, their teacher, their parents, their pastor or their friends that serve God. But God, if you seek them out, God, if you convict them, God, if you call them! They will hear and they will answer!

We are desperate for prayer and for fasting as we seek God’s power to break the habits and chains of sin. Together, we seek His Holy face in the spirit of revival.

Read the accounts recorded over decades ago by Dr. A.J. Gordon. Dr. Gordon wrote about David Brainerd, missionary to the American Indians in the 18th century.

"Now that man did the greatest work by prayer. He was in the depths of those forests alone, unable to speak the language of the Indians, but he spent whole days in prayer. What was he praying for? He knew that he could not reach these savages: he did not understand their language. If he wanted to speak at all, he must find somebody that could vaguely interpret his thought. Therefore he knew that anything he might do must be absolutely dependent upon the power of God. So he spent whole days praying simply that the power of the Holy Ghost might come upon him so unmistakably that these people should not be able to stand before him. What was his answer? Once he preached through a drunken interpreter, a man so intoxicated that he could hardly stand up. That was the best he could do; yet scores were converted through that sermon. We cannot account for it, only that it was the tremendous power of God behind him . . .

"The hidden life whose days are spent in communion with God in trying to reach the source of power is the life that moves the world. By and by, the great moving current of these lives will begin to tell as in the case of this young man not quite thirty years of age. The marvelous missionary revival of the nineteenth century is due more to his prayers than to any other thing."

Here is a typical entry in David Brainerd's Journal:

"I set apart this day for secret fasting and prayer, to intreat God to direct and bless me with regard to the great work I have in view, of preaching the gospel. Just at night, the Lord visited me marvelously in prayer; I think my soul never was in such agony before; I felt no restraint, for the treasures of divine grace were opened to me; I wrestled for absent friends, for the ingathering of souls, for multitudes of poor souls, and for many that I thought were the children of God, personally, in many distant places. I was in such agony till near dark, that I was wet with sweat. Oh, Jesus did sweat blood for poor souls! I longed for more compassion towards them."

Over a hundred years ago Charles G. Finney was being mightily used of God to awaken sinners in our land. Concerning him, George T. B. Davis has written:

"As John Wesley was mightily used of God to uplift the moral and spiritual life of England in the eighteenth century, so Charles G. Finney was God's chosen instrument in the nineteenth century to kindle revival fires in many parts of the United States, and to exert a powerful influence in molding the future of the nation.

"Like the apostle Paul, Mr. Finney was given a vision of Christ, and a remarkable outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which sealed his salvation, and called him from practicing law to preach the gospel. Mr. Finney said he seemed to see Christ standing in the room. He fell at His feet and bathed them with his tears. Then he tells how the Holy Spirit flooded his soul with glory.

"What was the secret of Finney's power? It was prayer-his own prayers, and the prayers of others He said: 'Unless I had the spirit of prayer I could do nothing. If even for a day or an hour I lost the spirit of grace and supplication, I found myself unable to preach with power and efficiency, or to win souls by personal conversation.'"

Can we agree together in prayer for revival for this generation?

Can we go to the Lord in prayer that our church can grow in the fire of revival and not smother in the smoke of what we used to do or be for God?

"If my People" now touches our hearts with the urgent understanding: If not now, when? If not here, where? If not you, then who will believe God for revival?