



Preparing for Declaration

Romans 10:8-10

We speak the word of faith. We believe with our heart and confess with our mouth in order to receive salvation - God's gift provided for us through His Son.

Sunday February 14, 2016
Experiencing Revival In Our Day
Part 4 in the series on Revivals, Visitations and Moves of God

This entire series will become available in print form shortly.

The Time of the Latter Rain

Acts 2:17-18

17 'and it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that i will pour out of my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.

18 and on my menservants and on my maidservants i will pour out my Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.

James 5:7-8

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

God did say that He will pour out His Spirit on a global scale, "*on all flesh*", in the last days. The latter rain falls for the purpose of gathering in the harvest. As we draw closer to the coming of the Lord, it also means that we are in a season of the latter rain and the outpouring of the Spirit will only intensify.

The Need For Revival (Or An Outpouring Of The Spirit)

With all the technology, tools, and methodologies available to us today, it is easy to suppose that we do not really need revival. It seems so much easier to just use the tools and methods rather than pressing in to God and experiencing revival.



A, To ignite our passion for God, for His Word, for His Spirit

While programs, tools and methods may excite people, it is only the work of God's Spirit that ignites passion for God, for His Word and for the things of the Spirit. *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing."* (John 6:63)

B, To move from glory to glory and be the kind of people and community God intended us to be

Every revival ushers us into a new realm in God. If we consolidate what we receive, we can press in for more and move into a greater realm of glory. As individuals and as a community we are to move from glory to glory. God desires greater glory to be released among His people. Rather than being satisfied with things the way they are, we should press in for more.

C, To see the gathering in of the harvest

In revival people are saved and added to the Kingdom in large numbers, far more than what is achieved through normal programs and campaigns. The number of people who need to be saved is great.

D, To see the Church truly impacting the world as salt and light bringing about transformation

Hindrances To Revival

- A. Ignorance to what God has in store for the Church (a theological problem)
- B. Misunderstanding of revival, outpouring and move of God (a theological problem)
- C. Sin and worldliness, a 'casual' approach to the things of God (a spiritual problem)
- D. Complacency, a satisfaction with the way things are - no real desire for "more" of God (a spiritual problem)
- E. Lethargy, an unwilling to pursue God in prayer until revival happens (a spiritual problem)
- F. Indifference, no passion for the lost, no desire to see communities and cities changed (a spiritual problem)
- G. Resistance to change, attachment to programs, agendas, etc. (a practical problem)
- H. Busyness, "no time" to pursue God (a practical problem)
- I. Divisiveness, discord, strife, contention.



Characteristics Of A Genuine Revival Or Visitation

Matthew 7:16-20

16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

What to look for to test if something is a genuine work of God's Spirit?

- A. Something that cannot be manufactured or explained - not the result of hype, media, programs, etc.
- B. Focus on exalting Jesus, not an individual
- C. Proclamation of sound doctrine : the Gospel, the Cross, repentance, etc.
- D. Unity of the Spirit at the heart of those being used, not divisive (although not all may understand or welcome everything that is happening)
- E. Bringing people into intimacy with God, wholeness and Christ-likeness. Example, the Father's love bringing healing to broken lives in the Toronto revival....
- F. Lasting fruit of transformed lives beyond the phenomena and manifestations. Example, Heidi Baker and what happened at Toronto....

Can We Have A Visitation of God?

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers;...

Revival is a pure work of God, but we as a people can prepare and pursue God for a mighty outpouring of His Spirit.

There is not set "formula" that causes an outpouring of God's Spirit.

There are variations in

- A. the time God chooses : at times of great spiritual and moral decline, or at times when people are earnestly seeking Him; sometimes in response to a few months of prayer, or sometimes after many years of prayer, etc.
- B. the place God chooses : big cities, small towns, college campuses, homes, street corners, marketplace, etc.
- C. the person (or people) God uses : educated, uneducated, young and old, preachers, lay-people, just anybody.
- D. the spark that ignites the blaze : sometimes it is intense collective prayer, sometimes it is the preaching, sometimes it is an individual who has been seeking God, etc.



- E. the manifestations of an outpouring : all kinds of signs, wonders, phenomena can happen

Jonathan Edwards and Charles Finney had differing views on how to pursue God for revival.....

How can a local church community prepare itself to receive, steward and release an outpouring?

Luke 14:28-30

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—

29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,

30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

Two key preparation steps:

#1, Prepare people

#2, Pursue in prayer

#1, Prepare people

- A. Put away sin, worldliness, childishness, strife, competition, desire for recognition, position, etc. In many great revivals, the revival stopped because of strife among the people God was using.

The Azusa street revival that started in April of 1906 began to see serious disagreements and strife start creeping in about 1909. Florence Crawford, the secretary of the Apostolic Faith Mission after some disagreements left taking with her the mailing list that was used to keep people informed about the revivals. Conflicts arose at the Mission with disagreements over petty things such as wearing of neckties being a sign of worldliness, constructing a storm shelter at the Mission demonstrating a lack of faith or otherwise, etc. Many of preachers who visited the revival for a week or two, felt they could do a better work, and started competing works nearby. Theological disagreements over sanctification caused division as well. All this led to the waning of the revival.

The revival in Brownsville Assembly of God church in Pensacola, Florida that began in 1995, by 2000 saw strife breaking out amongst its key leaders. The move of the Spirit was quenched through strife and broken relationships.

- B. Become Kingdom minded 1 Corinthians 3, John 4 - we are all one, regardless of who God uses.....
- C. Focus on God's presence not programs



- D. Equip people to disciple new believers
- E. Equip people to "go" become carriers of revival fire (develop a pioneering mindset)
- F. Be ready to make changes to accommodate the move of God
- G. Prepare leadership team to step in, to go, to do anything that is needed.

#2, Pursue in prayer

- A. Encourage personal prayer for revival
- B. Call people for collective prayer for revival

It is important to maintain proper order when pursuing revival. We must not neglect the gradual incremental progress, while we are pursuing the mighty, supernatural outpouring of the Spirit of God in revival.

His Glory Seen Upon His People

Every genuine cry for revival is really a cry for God's glory to be revealed, a desperation for the glory of God to be seen upon His people. This in fact, is the very desire of God's heart. God desires for His glory to be revealed through His people here on earth.

God's desires for His glory and the knowledge of His glory to fill the earth.

Isaiah 60:1-3

- 1 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.**
- 2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.**
- 3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.**

God's glory will be revealed through His people.

Psalm 63:1-2 (A psalm of David)

- 1 O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.**
- 2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.**

Here is in essence a cry for revival. As a person would long for water in a dry and barren land, so David expresses his hunger and thirst for God. And he longs to see God's "power and glory" revealed among His people as they gather in the sanctuary.



God desires to fill His House with His glory

Haggai 2:7-9

7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts.

8 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the LORD of hosts.

9 'The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the LORD of hosts."

Manifestations of His Presence

The fire of His presence

The light of His presence

The rain of His presence

The glory of His presence

The power of His presence

The cloud of His presence

The wind of His presence

The voice of His presence

..and many other expressions of His presence..

The Fruit of Revival - The Impact of An Outpouring

We have seen these earlier and repeat this here as a reminder:

#1, A great revelation of who God is

#2, A heightened revelation of spiritual truth and realities

#3, An increase passion, fervor and zeal in God's people toward spiritual things

#4, An increased ingathering of the unsaved

#5, An increase in supernatural manifestations, unusual and mighty wonders and miracles

#6, A powerful transformation of society

#7, An equipping and sending out of ministers and starting of new ministries in missions, church planting and spreading of revival fire

The Risk of Revival

As a pastor/leader there is a risk you take to pursue the path to revival.

What if people think you are wrong and stop coming to church?

We have the example of William Seymour,



What if people get tired, burn out and need a lot of care or just quit?
What if the enthusiasm and passion for revival dies out among the people?
What if nothing happens even after one year, two, three or more years of praying?
What if you and your church get branded as fanatics, off the edge, etc.?
What if your motives as a leader are misunderstood and questioned?
What if God does send revival and it is way beyond what you imagined and your world is turned upside down?

But then you and your congregation will have to make a choice.
Do you want church as usual, have your programs and pursue incremental growth and eventually grow into a 'nice big church', or do you want to see a move of God's Spirit in and through your church that resembles what we saw in the book of Acts?

Are you ready to give everything to see revival come?
Are you ready to be completely sold out pursue Him and the outpouring of His Spirit?
Are you ready to give up all that you could otherwise enjoy - comforts, a nice daily schedule, good ministry, programs, fame, etc.?
Are you willing to go after this with all you have leaving no stone unturned?
Are you willing to be so consumed in pursuing Him that everything else takes second preference?
Are you willing to fully empty yourself of self, so He can fill you with Himself and release His will through you?
Are you prepared to pursue revival and even if it does not happen in your lifetime, are you ready to die trying?

To go where we have never been, we have to do something we have never done.

Remember revival, as we understand it is does not have to be just a 'season'. Each level of glory that a revival ushers you into can become the new norm for your church community. And then you can press in to another season for even more of Him, to take you to the next level. And then the next, and the next. You can journey from glory to greater glory.

Salvation Call : A short gospel message and prayer