

Revival Is Here

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

“For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones” (Isaiah 57:15).

We have entered into climactic days; perilous times are here. What the church of Jesus Christ needs more than ever in these moments is a real understanding of revival. The very premise and basis for revival is humility. Contrite people are the only people who really experience the Word of God revival. In Isaiah 57, the Lord revives and quickens whom? Him who is of a contrite and humble spirit.

Yet, there are millions of believers—millions who will spend eternity in heaven—who are not revived today. Revival speaks of refreshment. It refers to the quickening and the renewal that the Holy Spirit can bring to a Christian. It means

being completely and totally changed in a moment.

When you think of such words as “refreshment” and “quicken,” your mind rests on the ideas of relaxation and renewal. A transformation takes place when you are revived.

As these pages will detail, revival is when God’s people, who are simply sinners saved by grace, experience the quickening power of the Word and the filling of the Holy Spirit—something that is so needed in our lives and in our nation today.

Chapter One

IT IS NO SECRET
WHAT GOD CAN DO

“Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word.

“Salvation is far from the wicked: for they seek not thy statutes.

“Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD: quicken me according to thy judgments” (Psalm 119:154-156).

“Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

“Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

“Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase” (Psalm 85:10-12).

Revival does not mean being quickened by outward stimulation. This kind of display is characterized by emotionalism. Happiness and good circumstances are not evidences of revival.

Real revival comes from the Word of God.

No one can be revived except by being made humble and contrite, according to the Truth. This is why there is so little revival in our world today. The Truth, the Word of God, is not pre-eminent in believers' lives.

Let me illustrate it. In Psalm 119:156, the writer asks God to deal with him according to His tender mercies. But then he asks to be quickened according to God's judgment. Judgment speaks of an expression of God's justice. But, God's mercy rejoices over judgment. There is a Greek word—*exaleipho*—that refers to the way that God's mercy wipes out sin and goes beyond justice toward the believer because Calvary satisfied the justice of God (Acts 3:19).

No one can be revived without being humbled and broken through Calvary. Consider this idea for a moment. These thoughts need to be carefully expressed. We cannot afford to hasten this message in its communication. Think in this context and discover that revival is no secret if we will let God do what He can do.

The Word Is Powerful

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword,

piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

Think of the tremendous principle of being quickened according to the Word of God. Don’t act as if you know that verse. We have not begun to know the verse. The Word of God is quick, and it has the power to revive. There is a refreshing quality in the Word of God; it carries a provision for renewal. Its quickening power speaks of its ability to instantly transform the heart and mind of a believer.

Revival also means to live in the motivation of God’s viewpoint. When I am revived, my motives are right with Him. I will never decline from my position on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are moments when I falter, but I can instantly rebound and recover.

Our potential through godly motivation is unbelievable. Our potential for God to work is indescribable. It is no secret what God can do. Think of that old song with me:

The chimes of time ring out
that another day is through.
Someone slipped and fell.
Was that someone you?

You may have longed for added strength,
your courage to renew.
Do not be disheartened, I have news for you.
It is no secret what God can do.
What He's done for others, He will do for you.
With arms wide open, He will pardon you.
It is no secret what God can do.

I love the part of that song that says, "Someone slipped and fell. Was that someone you?" Do you long for strength and courage to be renewed? There is news for people in that situation. You see, once the engrafted Word concerning the doctrine of revival takes over our hearts, then—believe me—it is no secret what God can do. In His presence, there is no secret or limit to what God can do. It's no secret because it's all there in the Bible for us to see. It is there if we have the humility to see it.

There is no night, for in His light
you'll never walk alone.
You'll always feel at home
wherever you may roam.
There is no power can conquer you
while God is on your side.
Take Him at His promise, don't run away and hide.
It is no secret what God can do.

What He's done for others, He will do for you.

With arms wide open, He will pardon you.

It is no secret what God can do.

I think you will understand this a little bit more by the time you are through reading these pages. I have been praying specifically that God would speak to me and quicken me every second of the day.

Chapter Two

BE BOLD

“Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation” (2 Corinthians 7:4).

“In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him” (Ephesians 3:12).

“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus” (Hebrews 10:19).

Personally, I am being very careful as to what I hear and what I read. I don't want to receive any information that would discredit or call into question the vision God gives me as a believer. All of us need to understand the problems that come when our hearts are divided. It is certainly important for us to receive different portions. I thank God for the whole Body of Christ, but what I receive must complement me where I am in the calling of God. All portions

that communicate the Truth are diverse and profitable. Still, I do not want to think on vain things, things that do not profit me or give me purpose in Jesus Christ.

Mixing contrary opinions that divide my mind and heart only serve to make me unstable. This means I will lack the boldness God gives. My confidence level in Him will be diluted because of the admixture of confusion. But when I am quickened by the Word, then I will have boldness.

The problem with many Christians who do not get healed is that they have no boldness. Their prayers do not get answered because they do not come boldly to the throne of grace.

Affirm God's Work in You

Recently, God showed me David's prayer of affirmation in Psalm 23. There are times when we don't ask God for something because this is just the way things are because of who God is in His sovereignty. So instead, we go to Him with a prayer that affirms His work in us.

When David wrote this psalm, Absalom, his son, had stolen the hearts of the people of Israel and had driven him from the throne in Jerusalem. David was out in the Judean desert, and

he didn't know what Absalom would do. He didn't know if his kingdom had been taken over. He didn't know where he stood. Yet he was not wavering. He had boldness as he prayed this prayer of affirmation:

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

“He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever” (Psalm 23:1-6).

In that little place, having no possessions except what he had in his hands, David said, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.”

David didn't know about his son. His heart was broken, but he offered this prayer of affirmation. He had boldness. “This is the way it is,

Lord. You are my Shepherd. That's the way it is. I shall not want. That's the way it is." That is a prayer of affirmation. You affirm what you know to be true. There is no doubting, no wavering. There is not a question in the world about who you are.

Pursued by Mercy

The word "follow" speaks of something that relentlessly pursues. David was in the Judean desert, running from the forces loyal to Absalom. Yet he was not seeing those forces that were chasing him down. Instead, David's consideration was upon the divine goodness and mercy that were with him.

David had every reason to be defeated by his circumstances. He had every reason to be paranoid. Yet, he wrote a prayer of affirmation. He was quickened according to the Word. He was revived. He was refreshed and transformed. That is what revival is.

God's divine goodness and divine mercy will relentlessly pursue us all the days of our lives. This is the Truth. It is no secret what God can do.

Be revived! Be refreshed! Be renewed!

I don't know about you, but I cannot afford

to get up in the morning and live on yesterday's Christianity. I am too wicked, naturally speaking. I am too passive and too undisciplined in myself. I can be selfish and careless. I can do okay, but, apart from the Word, I am not revived, refreshed, and renewed.

I cannot afford to live on theology that I studied last week. I cannot live on the knowledge I have acquired. I can quote verses all over the place, but I cannot afford to do just that. I need to be quickened by God's Word—morning, noon, and night. I need to have the Word as the basis for the norms and standards of my thinking.

The issue is not what is happening around me. The issue is what's happening in my heart.

Chapter Three

THE UNFAILING LOYALTY OF GOD

“And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

“And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

“Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

“And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

“And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and par-

don our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance” (Exodus 34:5-9).

In Exodus 33:11-17, Moses talked with God and said, in essence, “I want to know Your character, Lord. I want to know what You are like. I want to know who You really are if I am going to follow You and lead these people in this journey. So show me Your characteristics. Show me Your name. Show me who You are.” Moses understood just how crucial it was to know God. It was so very important to understand His mercy. That is who God is.

In Exodus 34, “mercy” speaks of unfailing loyalty. Others may be disloyal at one time or another. I may be disloyal to you, or you may be disloyal to me. God, however, gives you unfailing loyalty, unfailing love, unfailing grace, unfailing mercy, unfailing forgiveness. I can be quickened according to God’s Word pertaining to His unfailing loyalty.

God’s love never fails! What a beautiful thing that is.

I love to read Hebrews 13:5 in the Amplified Bible translation: “Let your character or moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions] and be satisfied with your present

[circumstances and with what you have]; for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]"

Look at all those "I will not" statements in this translation. Relax and don't go after things that are fleeting. Don't weary yourself trying to have your circumstances changed. God will never leave you helpless. You will not be forsaken under any circumstance.

Be quickened according to those words from God. That's revival.

Be renewed.

Be refreshed.

Be revived.

The very Christ who died upon Calvary and shed His precious blood for us gives us His word on every subject. There is not one subject for which God does not have a word for us. Look in the Book and get His mind on the matter.

Listen Like Never Before

When you hear a new topic from the Word,

listen with a new motivation. Listen as a little child would listen. Listen in humility. Listen in brokenness. Don't become overly occupied with the sinner-saved-by-grace who is speaking this message. Hear from God. Listen and be renewed. Be quickened. Be refreshed. Let the Truth go deep and be engrafted in your heart.

It will bless you and build you up. It will edify you. It will conform you, line upon line, to Christ's image. This Word can heal the sick. It may enliven passive marriages. Who can tell what God can do? A passive husband who clings to his insecurity may cut his denominational ties and rationalistic attitudes and get humbled. He will be broken and be made a brand-new creature as he gets rid of his jealousy, envy, and fear.

When I am quickened by the Word of God, my circumstances don't have to change. Jesus is enough for the situation. Christ is all I need.

"When I walk into the thick of trouble, keep me alive in the angry turmoil. With one hand strike my foes, With your other hand save me" (Psalm 138:7).

"O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy" (Habakkuk 3:2)

This is the prayer I pray for America and for all of us in the church of God. May we remember the Lord in the midst of the terrible sins being committed in our nation. May we ask Him to bring us His mercy in the midst of wrath. Let us ask Him to revive His work in us.

CONCLUSION

Please be praying for God to do His work in us by the Holy Spirit. Healing can take place by God's Spirit at any second. Believe God and be quickened by the Word of God. May there be no obstacles to the move of God. Let's not allow anything to inhibit the manifestation of His presence in our midst.

Pray and ask God to bless and move in your life. Let's allow the Lord to minister His Word clearly, purely, thoroughly, and completely in the togetherness of truth.

Years ago I would pray, "God, send down revival!" I am not praying that prayer just now. I am praying that God would manifest what He has done in each of us. I want every believer to get a fresh revelation of who he is in Christ and of what Christ has done for him.

I am not after God to send something. I want Him to reveal what He has done through you and in you. He cannot do any more but reveal

what He has done. Then we can agree with Him
and be quickened in that truth.

That's revival. And it is here.