

Summary

In this sermon, the pastor draws on Psalm 85:6-7 to sound an urgent call for revival in the church, in families, and across the nation. Using the dramatic story of Apollo 13 as a launching point, he declares that America and the church are in a deep crisis that no political solution, social program, or human effort can fix. Only God has the answer, and the path to that answer begins with serious, committed prayer and a willingness to let God reignite the fire that may have grown cold in our hearts. The pastor challenges believers to stop being distracted by screens and entertainment and to start gathering for prayer, both in church and in their homes. He emphasizes that true revival brings genuine joy rooted not in circumstances but in the presence of God. He calls husbands to lead their families spiritually and encourages the whole church to be "salty" Christians whose lives make others hungry for Jesus. Quoting Charles Spurgeon, he reminds the congregation that a genuine revival without joy in the Lord is impossible, and He urges everyone to surrender what is covering the fire within them so that God can stir it back to life.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and willing spirits. Just as the psalmist cried out, "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you," we echo that same prayer now. Lord, we ask that You would quiet the noise in our minds and the distractions in our lives so that we can truly hear what You want to speak to us today. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts ready to understand. Holy Spirit, move in this group. Stir up the fire within each of us and draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing that genuinely brings you joy, not just happiness, but deep-down joy, and why does it mean so much to you?

Key Verses

- Psalm 85:6-7
- Matthew 6:10
- 2 Timothy 1:6

- Matthew 5:13
- Philippians 4:19

Questions

- The pastor compared the state of America and the church to the Apollo 13 crisis, saying, "Heaven, we have a problem." Do you agree that the church is in a crisis moment? What signs do you see in your own community that support or challenge that idea?
- The sermon emphasizes that only God has the solution to the problems we face, yet we often turn to politics, programs, or our own efforts first. Why do you think it is so hard for us to truly trust God as the primary answer, even when we say we believe it?
- The pastor said that people are "lazy about praying" and that nothing on a social media scroll will fix our nation. How would you honestly describe your own prayer life right now, and what is one thing that most often gets in the way?
- He used the image of stirring up dying coals in a wood stove to describe what revival in a believer's heart looks like. What do you think the "ashes" represent in your own spiritual life, and what would it look like to start stirring those coals again?
- The pastor said that joy is not based on happenings but comes from the Lord, and that "the joy of the Lord is our strength." Can you share a time when you experienced that kind of joy even in the middle of a difficult circumstance?
- The sermon calls for prayer meetings to break out in people's homes, not just at church. What would it take for you personally to host or participate in a prayer gathering outside of a church building? What feels exciting or intimidating about that idea?
- Charles Spurgeon said, "A genuine revival without joy in the Lord is as impossible as spring without flowers, day dawn without light." What do you think it means for a church or a family to carry that kind of joy, and what does it look like practically in everyday life?
- The pastor specifically challenged husbands to take spiritual leadership in the home and wives to encourage and support that leadership. Whether or not you are married, how do you think spiritual leadership and mutual encouragement in relationships can contribute to revival starting in the home?

Life Application

This week, set aside at least 15 minutes each day to pray specifically for revival, starting with your own heart. Put your phone down, turn off the TV, and ask God to stir up the fire within you. Then take one

practical step to bring that fire into your relationships: invite a friend, family member, or coworker to pray with you, even if it is just for a few minutes over lunch or before the day begins. Let this be the week you stop waiting for revival to come to you and start asking God to start it in you.

Key Takeaways

- The problems facing our nation and the church are beyond human solutions. Only God can bring the revival and transformation we desperately need.
- Prayer is the foundation of revival. Before any great move of God, there were people who prayed faithfully and persistently, often without recognition.
- Revival begins in the individual heart. Like stirring dying coals back to life, we must remove distractions, add the fuel of God's Word and prayer, and allow the Holy Spirit to reignite what He placed within us.
- True revival produces genuine joy rooted in who God is, not in circumstances. That joy is contagious and draws others who are hungry for something real.
- Spiritual renewal starts in the home. Husbands are called to lead in prayer and faith, and families who pray together become a launching point for revival in their communities.

Ending Prayer

Lord, we thank You for the time we have shared together today around Your Word. We confess that too often we have looked to our own strength, our own plans, and our own solutions instead of turning to You first. Forgive us for letting the fire grow dim. Right now, we ask You to stir up the coals within each person in this group. Rekindle the flame of prayer, of joy, and of faith. Let revival begin here, in our hearts, in our homes, and in our relationships. May we leave this place as salty Christians whose lives make others thirsty for You. We trust You, Lord, because You alone have the solution. In the name of Jesus, amen.