

**The Need for Revival**  
**Living in the Fear of God**  
Pastor Anthony J. Shetley  
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What is a revival? Some define it as a renewal or awakening. Is this what Peter meant by times of refreshing which would come from the presence of the Lord? (Acts 3:19)

The life of a Christian and the commission of the church can be tiresome and lead to weariness, so times of refreshment are something to be coveted for by God's people as we do not live and serve in our strength alone. We rely upon the indwelling Holy Spirit of God.

### **2 Corinthians 4:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup>Therefore **we do not lose heart**, but though our outer man is decaying,  
yet **our inner man is being renewed** day by day.

There is a vast difference between renewal and revival. We do find the need for a revival in the bible, however, it's not something to be sought after but avoided - entirely. To the church located in the city of Sardis, Jesus had these words to say,

### **Revelation 3:1–2 (NASB)**

"I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.  
Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die;  
for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God."

This church had all but died spiritually. Their spiritual decay had led them away from the righteousness of Christ. Jesus would go on to say, "*Remember what you have received and heard; and keep it and repent.*" (Rev. 3:3)

This church, like many today, had "drifted away" from the wholesome pure doctrines of Christ delivered to them and taught to them through the ministry of the apostles. They had abandoned the things they used to do out of their love for the Lord and His righteousness.

"Lord, alert us and keep us from drifting away from your righteousness. Keep us in your word which endures to every generation. Heaven and earth will pass away, but your word will endure forever.  
AMEN"

### **Philippians 2:12–16 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup>So then, my beloved, just as **you have always obeyed**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling**;

<sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. <sup>14</sup>Do all things without grumbling or disputing; <sup>15</sup>so that you will **prove yourselves** to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup>holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

Paul was the "planter" of this church in Philippi. He is writing to them from prison. He's not there in person to help them, but he is encouraging them to remember and do all they had been taught in Christ. In contrast to the church at Sardis, they must continue to "work out or live out their salvation with fear and trembling."

## **Living in the Fear of God**

What is meant by "fear and trembling"? Fear (pho'bos) to flee from terror and to reverence and respect. Its use here with the word tremble may imply a sense of terror.

### **Hebrews 2:1–3 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>For this reason we must **pay** much **closer attention to what we have heard**, so that we do not drift away from it. <sup>2</sup>For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, <sup>3</sup>how will we escape if we **neglect** so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard.

We love our fathers who set rules over us. We show them respect and honor their words out of fear of what would happen to us if we disobeyed. When we honored the rule of our fathers and gave them their due respect, there was need for fear or terror. In the same way we must not **neglect** the authority of our heavenly father.

“Fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”  
(Jesus - Matthew 10:28)

*To fear God is to exalt Him and all things concerning Him as Holy.*

**May We Never Profane His Name** by treating it as common; for God’s name is Holy. May we address Him with honor and respect due to His holy name. May we never invoke His name in any impure manner. May we never act in His name in a fraudulent manner.

“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain,  
for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.” (Exodus 20:7)

### **May We Never Demean His Grace.**

God’s grace is not cheap nor common. Our redemption was paid for by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. We are warned against trampling His blood under our feet; to cheapen it as something to be walked on. By His finished work, we receive the grace of God; the imputation of Christ’s righteousness. Therefore, We are to abide in the wonderful, merciful, and pure grace of God by the working or living out of His righteousness.

### **Philippians 2:15–16 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup>so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,  
<sup>16</sup>holding fast the word of life.

### **May We Never Demean His Church.**

Matthew 21:13 “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’; but you are making it a robbers’ den.” (Isa. 56:7)

A house of Prayer – a place to meet with God; to worship God; to hear from God. When we are in the house of God, we are standing on Holy ground. The disciples remembered what had been written -  
“Zeal for Your house will consume me.” (Ps. 69:9; John 2:17)

Jesus was angry against what had become of the house of God for it was being exploited by man.

In the attempt to make God and His salvation relevant within the culture, the flesh takes the reins away from the Spirit. He is not allowed to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.

The profaning of God, His grace, and His church is a leading cause of death for many professing Christians today. May we take heed to work out our salvation with fear and with trembling.