

“Revival: Moving and Maintaining”

Part 3 of ‘Real Christianity’

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, February 3, 2019

“**Revival**” – ‘An improvement in the condition or strength of something.’

“**Revivalism**” is, ‘Increased spiritual interest and hunger for God and His Word or renewal in the life of a church congregation or society, with a local, national or global effect.’

1. How does revival, with people being saved, healed, and delivered from the power of sin and Satan, begin?

* **Unity in prayer, continually and consistently.**

Acts 1:14 AMP: All these with one mind and one purpose were continually devoting themselves to prayer, [waiting together] along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 2:1-4 NIV: When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

* **Teaching, preaching, and sharing God’s Word.**

Acts 2:38-47 NLT Study Bible: ³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away — all who have been called by the Lord our God.” ⁴⁰ Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day— about 3,000 in all. ⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

2. How is revival stopped, hindered, or slowed down?

Acts 6:1-7 NLT Study Bible: But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.

² So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, “We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. ³ And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. ⁴ Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word.”

⁵ Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the Jewish faith). ⁶ These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them.

⁷ So God’s message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.

* The devil could not stop this revival by bringing the outside pressure of persecution and threats. So, he had to move inside the church to hinder and attempt to stop what God was so powerfully doing. He had to stir up discontent, divisions, jealousy, offenses, envy, prejudice, murmuring, and complaining.

* Look at the problem that the Apostle Paul encountered and addressed in the Corinthian Church.

1 Corinthians 1:10 NKJV: ¹⁰ Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

* Where did the devil see this work?

Genesis 11:1-9 NLT Study Bible: At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. ² As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia and settled there.

³ They began saying to each other, "Let's make bricks and harden them with fire." (In this region bricks were used instead of stone, and tar was used for mortar.) ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world."

⁵ But the LORD came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building.

⁶ "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! ⁷ Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other."

⁸ In that way, the LORD scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the LORD confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world.

* They intended to build a monument to make a name for and glorify themselves and not to glorify and honor God. They were first seeking to build for their own reputation and profit. Their human effort was one of idolatry and became a symbol of divine judgment on human pride, self-ambition, and self-rule.

* Can this also happen in a church? (Laodicea Church)

James 3:13-17 NLT: ¹³ If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. ¹⁵ For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. ¹⁶ For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.

3. How then does Revival continue and how is it maintained?

- a. Put the Kingdom of God first place in every aspect and detail of your life.

Matthew 6:31-33 NLT: ³¹ “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

- b. Have a Kingdom purpose and cause with an eternal mindset.

John 18:37 NKJV: Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

- c. Serve and give like Jesus!!

Matthew 20:28 NLT: For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

(Jesus voluntarily served others and gave Himself as a sacrifice for the forgiveness of all our sins.)

* What was His attitude?

Philippians 2:1-9 NKJV: Therefore, if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. ³ *Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

4. Results in the first church when everyone was involved in serving and giving.

Acts 2:46-47 NKJV: ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

- When we follow God's pattern, His way for the Church, we have guaranteed results.

Ephesians 4:16 AMP: From Him the whole body [the church, in all its various parts], joined and knitted *firmly* together by what every joint supplies, when each part is working properly, causes the body to grow *and* mature, building itself up in [unselfish] love.

* Prophetic instructions by the Holy Spirit concerning His Church before His return.

Hebrews 10:23-25 AMP: ²³ Let us seize *and* hold tightly the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is reliable *and* trustworthy *and* faithful [to His word]; ²⁴ and let us consider [thoughtfully] how we may encourage one another to love and to do good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our meeting together [as believers for worship and instruction], as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more [faithfully] as you see the day [of Christ's return] approaching.