



**Pray for Revival  
Psalm 85**

**Thank You God for our Past (vv.1-3)**

The psalmist remembered God's favor in the past. God was angry with His people because of their sin, but then God forgave them, withdrew His anger, and restored the nation. This past may refer to the nation's return to Judah from Babylon, or it may refer to another time when God punished the people for their sin. Nevertheless, the psalmist remembered a time of God's favor and revival.

*The Power of the Past* – We should remember and reflect on the past. When we do, our trust in God is stronger (if God acted in the past He can in the present). Also, we are motivated to repeat the faithful actions of people in the past.

*The Peril of the Past* – The past is always seen with rose-colored glasses. Being nostalgic for the past can hinder God's work in the present. If we focus on grief over the loss of the past, or trying to recreate the past, we can miss out on what God is trying to do through us now! We should always look at the present and see how and where God is working now, and not try to drag the past into the present.

**Revive Us Again God in our Present (vv.4-7)**

The psalmist felt like God had turned away from His people because He was angry and displeased with them. Whatever favor had been experienced in the past was absent in the present. The psalmist longed for God to return, turn away His anger, and revive His people. The psalmist asked for this revival on the basis of God's **faithful love**. God made a promise to His people to love them, correct them, and never leave them. The psalmist is asking God to keep His promise. When things aren't as good as they use to be, or when God isn't blessing like He used to, or when it feels like God isn't present anymore, we too long for revival. May this be our prayer for us individually, for Olive Branch and for our community. God revive us again!

**Bless us God in our Future (vv.8-13)**

After the psalmist prayed, he waited to hear God's response to his prayer. When we pray for revival, it may take a while for God to bring it. As we wait, we should evaluate our own sincerity. The psalmist was hopeful God would declare peace to His faithful people, and keep them from returning to foolish ways. In other words, he expected the people to repent and God's relationship with them to be restored. Salvation and the presence of God's glory would dwell in the land if the people feared God. We can pray for revival and restoration, but it begins with fearing God and returning to Him. When the relationship with God and His people was right again, there would be great blessing. When people get right with God in the fundamental areas of life, His choicest blessings are not far behind. The psalmist was confident that God would cause His faithfulness and righteousness to work together to provide peace, truth, righteousness, and prosperity.