

## **DAY 2**

### **Revival**

#### **God's Word for Today**

Read Zechariah 1:1-6

#### **Thoughts for Today**

When churches conduct "revival" services, they frequently see many people place their faith in Christ. Consequently, many think of revival as evangelistic services. But revival is what God accomplishes with His people when they return to Him. Revival comes when God restores life and vitality to His people. Revival is evident when His power and presence is made know in a community. When genuine revival comes to God's people, God's activity becomes the talk of the town.

Claude King tells a story about speaking to a church on prayer to about 25 members of a church that had run about 50 in attendance for 50 years. At the end of the session, the pastor and people confessed they had not been people of prayer and they repented. I explained that when John the Baptist preached a message of repentance, he required "fruits of repentance." I asked, "What is the fruit of repentance for prayerlessness?" ...Prayer! So we concluded in small groups of prayer. Many wept over their sin and pledged to pray.

That pastor resigned and a new one came a few months later. I was asked to speak again. The deacon chairman said, "We are not the same people we used to be. We took that prayer thing seriously." They had begun to pray in classes and services. Their mid-week prayer meeting became a real prayer meeting. They had been meeting weekly on Fridays to pray for a new pastor and God had sent them a man of prayer. I was excited to think what God might do with a praying people led by a praying pastor.

A few months later, a Methodist pastor asked if I had heard about the revival in this church I just described. I had not. He said the Methodists were praying it would spread their direction. So I called the new pastor and asked what was happening. Inactive church members were getting right with God and reconciling with the church. Life and vitality had replaced apathy. People were coming to faith in Christ and the church was running 175 in attendance. Now they were on mission with God in their community and they were going to the world. That is revival!

#### **It's Time to Pray**

1. Pray that God will reveal His requirements for genuine revival in your church. Ask God to start that revival in your own heart and life.
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take?