

## Opening Statement:

I really want revival, don't you?

We can have it if we are hungry and willing to pay the price for it!

There are quite a few passages applicable to the subject of revival and scores of sermons that have been preached down through the years!

I certainly don't have anything "new" this evening either! Soloman says, "*There's nothing new under the sun.*"

I am just repeating what God's men have been saying for years! I think, like Paul and Peter that, "repetition" is necessary and a great teacher...

### Philippians 3:1 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup> Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed *is* not grievous, but for you *it is* safe.

### 2 Peter 1:13 (KJV)

<sup>13</sup> Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting *you* in remembrance;

## Introduction:

I want to begin by asking you a few questions:

1. Why do we have a Revival (4 nights, work, etc)?

2. Why do we want a Revival (why not stay as we are)?
3. Why do we need a Revival (that's my message today)?

Let's look at a passage of Scripture this morning and consider the subject:

## "Why We Need a Revival"

Scripture Reading: *Psalm 85:1-13 (Key Verse, V. 6)*

## Background Observation:

*Bible Exposition Commentary (BE Series) - Old Testament - The Bible Exposition Commentary - Wisdom and Poetry.*

This psalm was probably written after the Jewish people returned to their land following their seventy years of captivity in Babylon (Jer. 29).

Note the emphasis on *the land* (vv. 1, 9 and 12) and on God's anger against His people (vv. 3-5).

God gave them favor with their captors, raised up leaders like Zerubbabel the governor, Joshua the high priest, and Ezra the scribe, and protected the Jewish remnant as they traveled to their war-ravaged land.

When you read Ezra 6 and the prophets Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi, you learn that life was very difficult for them in the land.

They did not always obey the Lord or show kindness to each other, but they did make a new start.

The Scottish preacher George H. Morrison said, "*The victorious Christian life is a series of new beginnings*," and he is right.

It is a sin to disobey God and fall, but it is also a sin to stay fallen.

We must always make a new beginning, and this psalm gives us some instructions that we can follow after times of failure and chastening.

The Psalm expresses 3 key actions for the returning people {seeking revival and restoration} to do:

**Give Thanks to the Lord (vv. 1-3)**

**Ask Him for Renewed Life (vv. 4-7)**

**Listen for God's Message to You (vv. 8-13)**

It is one thing for the nation collectively to have a new birth of freedom, but there must also be changes in individuals.

The praise begun in verses 1-3 (possibly by a choir) now becomes prayer from the hearts of the people.

Note that the word *us* is used six times, for it is the people who are praying, not the choir or worship leader.

"Turn (restore) us" is the burden of their prayer.

It has well been said that a change in geography will never overcome a flaw in character.

The return of the people to the land was no guarantee that all of them had returned to the Lord.

Not only were they concerned that God's chastening would end in their own lives, but they did not want it to be passed on to their children and grandchildren.

The word "revive" simply means "to live again, to be renewed in life." (We must not confuse this with the modern meaning—"special meetings for winning the lost.")

Establishing the nation, rebuilding the temple, and restoring the liturgy would not guarantee God's blessing on His people.

They desperately needed His life at work within them.

New life is not something that we manufacture ourselves; new life can come only from the Holy Spirit of God.

Now for my sermon and I'm done...

**"Why We Need a Revival?"**

There's a one-word answer church: **"Souls!"**

Notice 3 main truths:

**I. Souls Need Stirred!**

**Revival** means: “to stir; move to activity!”

Real revival is for God’s people (the church)!

**[Illus]** We need to be like a “fire” and get “stirred” for the Lord again!

**Ecclesiastes 9:10 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do *it* with thy might; for *there is* no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

**Romans 12:10-11 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> *Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

<sup>11</sup> Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

Not too many people in the church are “fervent” anymore!

We are not excited; enthusiasm is low; we’ve got used to being saved; we’ve gotten used to the church, etc.

Even a lot of preachers have lost their “*stirring!*” We are used to a position or a paycheck, etc.

Consider this verse I mentioned in my opening:

**2 Peter 1:13 (KJV)**

<sup>13</sup> Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting *you* in remembrance;

We need to “remember” some things and maybe we would get “stirred” for the Lord again...

**Our past SINS, STANDING and SORROW!**

**II. Souls Need Surrendered!**

**Surrender:** “To give one’s self up into the power of another; to yield, esp. as a prisoner!” “To give up the possession of something into the power of another!”

“From What?” you may ask...

**Selfishness:**

**Romans 12:1-2 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

<sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**Proverbs 23:6 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup> Eat thou not the bread of *him that hath* an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:

**Sin:**

**Romans 6:1-2 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

<sup>2</sup> God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

**Galatians 5:24 (KJV)**

<sup>24</sup> And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

When we have revival, we will...

**Desire to See (Him); Die to Sin; Die to Self...**

[**Illus**] It's time to throw up the white flag and say, "*Here I am Lord, use me, change me, correct me!*"

This brings me now to my final point...

III. **Souls Need Saved!**

While we're complacent, cold and callous, our loved ones and our neighbors are still LOST and headed to HELL!

We need a renewed BURDEN!

- Paul said it this way...

**Romans 9:3 (KJV)**

<sup>3</sup> For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

**Accursed:** "Doomed to destruction; no hope of being redeemed!"

- Again, here the words of the burdened Apostle Paul:

**Romans 10:1 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

Jesus said...

**John 4:35 (KJV)**

<sup>35</sup> Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

**CONCLUSION:**

In closing let me just say, we need a REVIVAL so that we get EXCITED and BURDENED at the same time!

I say again...there are 3 attitudes essential for revival to take place...

**Brokenness, Openness and Willingness!**

Are you willing to meet the request of our text verse and allow Him to revive you?

I know I am (by His help and Grace)!

Come while we sing...

**Invitation Hymn:** (Big) #295 "Revive Us Again"

Beach, B. –

3/21/95-Revival @ South View Baptist—Cleveland, TN

9/16/96-Revival @ Bible Baptist —Rossville, GA

11/19/96-Revival @ Murray Baptist —Chatsworth, GA

2/10/98-p.m. @ Tilton Baptist (Pastorate)—Dalton, GA

7/20/98-Revival @ Concord Baptist —Cohutta, GA

10/4/98-p.m. @ Tilton Baptist (Pastorate)—Dalton, GA

4/12/99-Revival @ New Hope Baptist —Cleveland, TN

2/18/01-Revival @ 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. Baptist —Dalton, GA

2/23/04-Revival @ North GA Baptist —Dalton, GA

10/9/16-a.m. @ Olivia Baptist (Pastorate)—Dalton, GA

4/23/23-p.m. @ W. Hill Baptist (Pastorate)—Dalton, GA