

Seeing Revival Through God's Eyes

CENTRAL QUESTION:

What does it truly mean for God to send revival, and what is our part in it?

I. WHAT WE THINK REVIVAL IS (OUR HUMAN PERSPECTIVE)

Key Scripture: 2 Chronicles 7:14 "If my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

How We Measure Revival:

- Packed altars and extended services
- Powerful, exciting, and emotional worship
- Church growth and large numbers
- An event or feeling we can manufacture or bring in

Reality: Revival isn't something we can manufacture. It isn't brought by an evangelist in a briefcase. It is something God initiates.

II. HOW GOD SEES REVIVAL (HEAVEN'S PERSPECTIVE)

A. GOD'S MEASUREMENT IS REPENTANCE

- Isaiah 66:2 - "These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word."
- Repentance means turning around and going in the opposite direction.
- It is a change measured in transformed lives, not just surface-level excitement.

B. GOD'S FOCUS IS THE INDIVIDUAL

- Luke 15:7 - "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."
- Heaven doesn't celebrate large crowds; it celebrates when one person comes to Jesus.
- Key Insight: To us, a packed house looks like revival. To heaven, one soul coming home is revival.

C. GOD'S GOAL IS A HARVEST

- Revival brings holiness and real change.
- It is not just a singular moment, but a complete lifestyle change.

III. WHAT GOD REQUIRES FOR REVIVAL (OUR REQUIRED RESPONSE)

MEANING #1: A HUMBLE AND BROKEN HEART [00:22:15]

- "Revival begins in the heart, melting the crown in the heart."
- God is not impressed by the size of our church, the talent of our worship team, or the quality of our programs. He is looking at our hearts.
- The Challenge: We often want revival as long as it doesn't disrupt our schedules, require us to change, or involve the uncomfortable work of uprooting sin.
- Key Insight: God's revival is not comfortable, it is consuming.

MEANING #2: A RETURN, NOT A PERFORMANCE [00:30:08]

- We think we have to prove ourselves or clean up our lives before we can come back to God.
- The analogy of the Prodigal Son shows the father celebrating the return, not demanding a performance.
- "You just come serve God and he'll help you clean up."

MEANING #3: A FULL SURRENDER [00:33:04]

- Romans 12:1 - "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God..."
- The problem with a living sacrifice is that it keeps trying to crawl off the altar.
- We promise God we will change if He gets us out of a mess, but we often go right back to our old ways.

IV. LIVING A LIFE OF REVIVAL (PRACTICAL APPLICATION)

Daily Practice:

"Revival begins before it ever begins in these altars and in these walls. It's gotta begin first... in your heart."

1. **Change Yourself:** Real change in our families and communities starts when we are willing to change ourselves.
2. **Get Up:** When you make a mistake, don't stay down. Dust yourself off, repent, and get back to serving God.

3. **Build Your Altar:** Revival has to start in your heart and in your home before it can overflow into the church.

The Challenge:

Will you stop wanting to see revival your way and start seeing it God's way?

KEY TAKEAWAY:

True revival is not a big, emotional church service. It is a deep and personal work of God that begins when His people individually choose to humbly repent, fully surrender their lives, and allow God to create a lasting change from the inside out.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- In what ways have you measured "revival" by human standards instead of God's?
- What is one thing in your schedule or life that you protect, which might be hindering a true move of God?
- What does the idea of being a "living sacrifice" mean for you practically today?
- Is there a mistake you need to "dust yourself off" from and bring to God in repentance?