

We Need Revival

In his preface to his book, “The Knowledge of the Holy”, A.W. Tozer writes this:

The message of this book does not grow out of these times but it is appropriate to them. It is called forth by a condition which has existed in the Church for some years and is steadily growing worse. I refer to the loss of the concept of majesty from the popular religious mind. The Church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble, as to be utterly unworthy of thinking, worshipping men. This she has done not deliberately, but little by little and without her knowledge; and her very unawareness only makes her situation all the more tragic. The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us.

Church, as I have reflected on 2020, both personally, but also from the perspective as a pastor, I have been coming more and more to the conclusion, that the Church—not just ours, but certainly including ours—is in need of revival.

There are, in the words of Tozer, a hundred lesser evils that have surfaced in these times. It’s not that they weren’t there before, it’s just that these COVID days have revealed them for what they are. In more ugly and sad ways that I think we could have imagined.

And it has grieved us. But not yet it seems to the point of repentance.

It seems we still have a HIGH view of ourselves:

It seems we still a LOW view of God, His Word, and His call on our lives:

Church, if you feel what I am saying is true of you personally, or at the very least true of the evangelical church as a whole (though I would be quick to say that revival always starts here). If you feel that there is merit to what I am saying that I want to remind us that the way forward is NOT for me to guilt-trip anyone or for you to feel guilty and have a superficial response of some New Year’s resolution or quick confession.

The way forward is to repent. And then ask God to revive us.

(pray)

Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah Receives a Greater Vision of God (vs. 1-4)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³And they were calling to one another:

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”*

⁴At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

Isaiah’s Response (vs. 5)

⁵“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

God’s Response to Isaiah’s Repentance (vs. 6-7)

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

Isaiah’s Response to God’s Forgiveness and Call (vs. 8)

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”