

No Longer Content

Text: Hosea 10:12

Date: 01/16/2022

What is Revival?

For the purposes of today's message and this series, revival might be summed up this way:

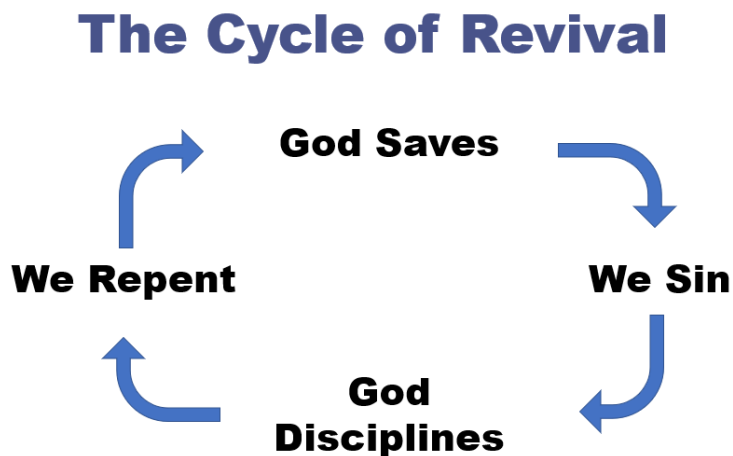
Revival is a supernatural quickening in the hearts of people to the holiness of God, the awfulness of sin, the love of the Spirit, the glory of the Gospel, and the urgency of the mission.

A few other things to note as you consider this definition:

- Revivals Are Preceded by Urgent Prayer
- Revivals Are Corporate in Nature
- Revivals Always Start with God's People but Result in Conversions
- While God Uses Human Instruments, It's Abundantly Clear to All That This Move is of God Alone

The Cycle of Revival

Though every revival has its own unique characteristics, every move of God in the Old Testament and down throughout church history, follows this general pattern:



“No Longer Content”

We must have the Holy Spirit's power and presence, otherwise our religion will become a mockery before God, and a misery to ourselves—C.H. Spurgeon

The prophet Isaiah said to the people of Judah:

“Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. (Isaiah 58:1).

Now this must have seemed strange, even offensive, to the people of Judah because, from their perspective, they were in fact seeking the Lord. Indeed, in the following verses the prophet acknowledges that they in fact *seemed* eager to seek the LORD. However, as he continues to prophesy, it becomes clear that though they had maintained certain outward religious activities they were either blind to, or choosing to ignore, the sin and spiritual lethargy in their lives. To which he concluded:

*You cannot fast as you do today
and expect your voice to be heard on high.*

James reminds us in his letter to the church, this “coming” near to God often requires repentance:

⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

The prophet Isaiah puts it this way:

*¹⁵ For this is what the high and exalted One says—
he who lives forever, whose name is holy:
“I live in a high and holy place,
but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite. (Isaiah 57:15)*

Are you willing to grieve with the Lord? (Jeremiah 2:11-13; Malachi 1:10-14)

A Call to Repent and a Promise (Hosea 10:12)

Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. Leonard Ravenhill once said, “As long as we are content to live without revival, we will.” What are the biblical principles behind seeking the Lord for revival?
2. Review “The Cycle of Revival”. How have you seen this to be true in your own life personally? What are examples in the Bible or in church history that you may know of?
3. Review Hosea 10:12. What do you think it means to “break up the fallow ground” and to “sow seeds of righteousness”?
4. Ask the Lord this week to stir up a hunger for the Holy Spirit to renew/revive your heart personally and that of our church and community.