

## WHEN REVIVAL COMES!!!!

Revival ..... We hear the word a lot. What is revival? Revival simply means "a coming back to life again!!!

### Psalms 85 I. LET'S NOTICE THE SEASON OF REVIVAL IN THIS PSALM (PSALM 85:1-5)

#### A. The Season Of Revival Is When the Lord Magnifies His Favor Psalm 85:1

The Bible says that the Lord has "been favourable" (Psalms 85:1). This word "favourable" means to be pleased with, to satisfy a debt, be accepted or acceptable, to accomplish, to set affection, to approve and pardon, to delight and enjoy, to take pleasure in, to reconcile. Thus...

1. The Lord Is Showing His Acceptance Of His People
2. The Lord Is Showing His Affection Toward His People

#### B. The Season Of Revival Is When the Lord Manifests His Forgiveness Psalm 85:2

(Psalms 85:2) Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.

##### 1. This Verse Manifests The Covering Associated With Forgiveness

The word "covered" is the Hebrew word *kacah*, which means to fill up the hollows. Sin had left them empty. God can fill those void and empty places.

##### 2. This Verse Manifests The Consideration Associated With Forgiveness

The use of the word "selah" means that as this song was sung, they would have a suspension of the music here. There would be a pause for effect, allowing the hearer to consider and meditate on what they had just heard.

#### C. The Season Of Revival Is When the Lord Moves from His Fierceness Psalm 85:3-5

(Psalms 85:3) Thou hast taken away all thy wrath: thou hast turned thyself from the fierceness of thine anger.

This word "fierceness" suggests a sore displeasure and the burning of anger. Therefore...

1. We See That The Burning Of God's Anger Has Ceased
2. We See That The Burden Of God's Anger Has Continued

Therefore, the psalmist prays, "Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease. {5} Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations?" (Psalms 85:4-5). God, you have turned; now turn us and change our hearts and remove those things that ignited your anger to begin with!

### II. LET'S NOTICE THE SOURCE OF REVIVAL IN THIS PSALM

(Psalms 85:6) Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?

This verse reveals a request, "Wilt Thou not revive us again." A relationship is also set forth in the phrase, "thy people." Then there is the prospect of rejoicing, "that thy people may rejoice in thee." Is the psalmist asking some priest like Zerubbabel, or some leader like Nehemiah to revive the people? No, he is asking God to send revival. That makes sense because...

#### A. Revival Comes From The God Who Remembers Us Ezra 9:8-9

(Ezra 9:8) And now for a little space grace hath been showed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.

##### 1. We Know That God Has Remembered Because He Has Fastened Us (So That He Might Show Us Revival)

Regarding the "nail in His holy place," the Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary says, "Edifices in ancient times, and in Eastern countries, were much more simple in construction than ours. Nor were they furnished with that variety of accommodation and furniture within of which ours can boast. Hence, one essential requisite was to fix spikes, or large pins, in the walls on which to hang moveables and utensils of common use. These immense nails were fastened in the walls of the apartment in the process of building, and placed in parts which were strong and durable."

##### 2. We Know That God Has Remembered Because He Has Furthered Us (Because He Has Shown Us Revival)

(Ezra 9:9) For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

#### B. Revival Comes From The God Who Recovers Us

##### 1. He Recovers Us Like The Revitalizing Of Spring

(Hosea 14:7) They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon.

##### 2. He Recovers Us Like The Renewing Of Strength

(Habakkuk 3:2) O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.

#### C. Revival Comes From The God Who Responds To Us

##### 1. God Responds To Our Humility With A Spirit Of Revival

(Isaiah 57:15) For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

##### 2. God Responds To Our Hardship With A Spirit Of Revival

(Psalms 138:7) Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

### III. LET'S NOTICE THE SUBSTANCE OF REVIVAL IN THIS PSALM (85:7-13)

#### A. Revival Involves The Listening Heart Psalm 85:7-9

The word "hear" in verse 8 is the Hebrew word shamah, meaning to hear intelligently, to hear attentively, to hear carefully, to hear certainly, to hear diligently, to hear surely, to listen. What are we listening for?

##### 1. The Lord Has A Word Of Favor For His Righteous People

(Psalms 85:8) I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.

##### 2. The Lord Has A Word Of Freedom For His Rejoicing People

(Psalms 85:9) Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

salvation – [Hebrew yesha'] liberty, deliverance, prosperity:--safety, salvation, saving.

glory – [Hebrew kabowd] prop. weight; but only fig. in a good sense, splendor or copiousness:--glorious (-ly), glory, honour (-able).

#### B. Revival Involves The Look Of Heaven Psalm 85:10-11

(Psalm 85:11) And righteousness shall look down from heaven

Shall descend from heaven; or shall come from above-as if the rain, and the sun looked down from heaven, and saw the needs of man. The original word here rendered "look down" (shaaqap - OT: 8259), means to lay upon, or over; then, to look forward; then, to overhang; and the idea here is that it bent over, or leaned forward to look at the necessities of man – as one does who is desirous of gazing at an object. As the rain and the sunbeams seem anxious to bestow their blessings on man, so God seems anxious to bestow on man the blessings of salvation. (Barnes' Notes)

What is the righteousness of God looking for?

##### 1. God Wants To See That Which Is Reconciled

(Psalms 85:10) Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

##### 2. God Wants To See That Which Is Real

(Psalms 85:11) Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Dr. Hammond suggests ... "Truth shall spring out of the hearts of men."

#### C. Revival Involves The Lord Of Help Psalm 85:12-13

##### 1. The Lord Will Give According To That Which Is Good

(Psalms 85:12) Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase.

## 2. The Lord Will Guide According To That Which Is Godly

(Psalms 85:13) Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps.

### Conclusion

Newspapermen went down from London to report firsthand the marvelous happenings of the great Welsh Revival at the turn of the century. On their arrival in Wales one of them asked a policeman where the Welsh Revival was. Drawing himself to his full height he laid his hand over his heart and proudly proclaimed: "Gentlemen, the Welsh revival is inside this uniform!" (Paul Lee Tan #10587) I'm interested in revival taking place inside of me!

### Isaiah 64

Our homes need revival. Our churches need revival. This nation and the world need revival. But no military power can bring revival. No economic upturn brings revival. And no election can bring revival.

Revival is the sovereign work of Almighty God.

In Isaiah 64, God's people had been carried into captivity, His work was in disrepair, and His people were dispirited, much like believers today. The Church has been carried into captivity by the world, the flesh and the devil. Christians are discouraged. Many have no hope for revival. They don't even believe that revival is possible!

I want to tell you, revival is not only possible, it is inevitable when God's people get right with God.

Why is there no revival? Listen carefully. Not because of liberalism in the churches, or disunity among God's people, or because we've been worldly and compromised. Friend, if we get all of these matters changed, it still would not be revival. These aren't the reasons for no revival. They are the result of no revival.

What is revival? Revival is when God comes down.

Oh, that you [Almighty God] would rend the heavens, that you would come down, that the mountains might shake at Your presence. (Isa. 64:1)

Revival is meeting with Almighty God. Most of us seek God to do something for our church, our family, our nation. But we're seeking God's hand and not His face. Our heart needs to yearn for God. We should be saying, "O God, will You come down?"

God loves to come down. He came down when the Lord Jesus stepped out of heaven to save us. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came down and baptized the infant church with wonderful power. And Jesus is coming down again at His second coming. If you study the record of the church in modern history, you will find from time to time in place to place, God has come down.

I want God to come down upon the church. Many of us don't believe this is possible. Don't get the idea that America has to be changed before we can have revival. You, my friend, can have revival. You can have personal revival. You can have revival in your Sunday school class. You can have

revival in your family. You can have revival whenever and wherever—you can be a one-person revival.

### The Presence That Produces Revival: God Himself

When God comes down, things will happen.

Mountains will melt.

...that the mountains might flow down in thy presence. As when the melting fire burneth.... (v. 1-2a)

Mountains of pride, bigotry and indifference—obstacles to God’s work—will melt away. Nothing can stop the revival fire of Almighty God! Don’t insult God by saying there are too many mountains, too many obstacles. When He comes down, mountains will melt.

Sinners will shake.

...To make Your name known to Your adversaries...That the nations may tremble at Your presence!...You came down, the mountains shook at Your presence. (v. 2b-3)

When the lost see something they can’t explain, Holy Spirit conviction falls and sinners begin to shake.

If we have revival in America, late-night comedians will not make fun and mock the holy things of Almighty God. The lascivious will shake in the presence of God. The unsaved will cry out for mercy.

The Righteous will rejoice.

For since the beginning of the world, men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him. You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, Who remembers You in Your ways. (v. 4-5a)

God wants to meet with you. God wants to come down. And when He does, church will not be a bore. God’s people will have joy unspeakable and full of glory. The righteous will rejoice. I long to see that. I want my children to see that. I want God to meet with His people so they’ll know this incredible joy.

So what stands in the way of this outpouring?

### The Problems That Prevent Revival

We are corrupted by our sins.

But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (v. 6)

We dress in self-righteousness, come to church, and look around in haughtiness and pride. We try to cover ourselves with the very thing that defiles and condemns us. Our “righteousness” is a filthy rag in His sight.

...and we all do fade as a leaf... (v. 6)

When leaves begin to turn yellow and brown, they fade and fall. On the trees they're looking good, but the wind comes and they're on the ground! So often I've seen people dressed in the rags of self-righteousness, but let the wind blow, let them have some family problems, some financial reversal, some difficulty, and they're blown away.

We are complacent in our sins.

And there is no one who calls on Your name, Who stirs himself up to take hold of You..... (v. 7)

Have you stirred yourself up to take hold of God, or are you simply a Sunday morning bench warmer, believing you've done God a favor by going? Is there a yearning, burning, longing for revival in your heart? If you get serious, God will send revival.

To the saints who've been chloroformed by the spirit of this age, Dr. R. A. Torrey said,

"I have a theory...that there is not a church, chapel, or mission on earth where you cannot have revival, provided there is a little nucleus of faithful people who will hold onto God until He comes down. First, let a few Christians—there need not be many—get thoroughly right with God themselves. This is the prime essential. If this is not done, the rest, I'm sorry to say, cannot be done, and it will come to nothing. Second, let them bind themselves together to pray for revival until God opens the heavens and comes down. Third, let them put themselves at the disposal of God to use them as He sees fit in winning others to Christ. That's all. This is sure to bring revival in any church or community. I have given this prescription around the world. It has been taken by many churches and many communities, and in no instance has it ever failed, and it cannot fail."

Get right with God. Band together and pray. Put yourself at God's disposal. This is the message of Isaiah 64.

You say, "Well, that's so simple." That's true. It's simple. The problem is, the Church is complacent. There is none "who stirs himself up."

Oh, friend, do what Dr. Torrey says and get right with God. If we don't, one day we'll wish we had.

We are consumed by our sins.

"...for You have hidden Your face from us and have consumed us because of our iniquities." (v. 7)

Our sins are eating us alive. God turns His face away from us. We have no protection. We can sing "God Bless America," but it's hollow because God has taken down His hedge of protection.

How can we have revival? How do we seek God's face? The prayer that precedes revival will...

Recognize God's sovereignty

But now, O LORD, you are our Father; We are the clay, You our potter, and all we are the work of Your hand. (v. 8)

We must believe that God is God. Recognize the sovereignty of God. God doesn't want "a place" in your life. God doesn't want prominence in your life. He demands and deserves pre-eminence. "Lord, You are sovereign. I'm the clay. Mold me and make me after Thy will. You are King!"

## Remember God's mercy

Do not be furious, O Lord, nor remember iniquity forever; Indeed, please look—we all are Your people! (v. 9)

Pray, "O God, have mercy. Don't keep your anger forever. Lord, we need You. We want You. We must have You."

God wants to extend mercy. He had much rather forgive sin than punish sin. But God cannot put away our sin by forgiving it unless we put it away by forsaking it. The problem is, so often we're not willing to repent. We want God's mercy, but prayer without repentance is a religious farce, a smokescreen.

## Respects God's glory

In verses 10 through 12 Isaiah says, "O God, we remember the glory. We remember when You spoke to us from Your sacred temple. Our fathers have told us about it. What a glorious time it was! O God, we want Your glory again! O God, show Thy face, show Thy glory!"

This is revival: when God comes down. Maybe you haven't been willing to stir yourself up. Maybe you are dressed in the rags of your self-righteousness, satisfied with where you are. Maybe you're a dying leaf and don't even know it.

But if you will seek God, He is waiting, leaning over the battlements of heaven. We don't have to persuade God to send revival, only permit Him to do so.

Do you want to see God's glory?