

**"BIBLICAL REVIVAL"**

**PSALM 85:1-13**

**TEXT: VERSE 6**

**"WILT THOU NOT REVIVE US AGAIN"**

**INTRO:** "REVIVAL" is a term most of us are familiar with. No doubt, to most who are under the sound of my voice right now, the word "REVIVAL" speaks of a series of meetings at a local church, under the direction of an evangelist or revivalist, during which time lost people come to Christ and Christians who have been living in sin get right with God. This could be a true description of "REVIVAL," but **REVIVAL IS MUCH MORE THAN WHAT I JUST DESCRIBED**. The concept of "REVIVAL," though the word is not always mentioned, is recorded at least 14 times in the OT and at least 10 times in the NT indicating the significance of the biblical concept. As we read through the revivals in the Bible, we can see commonalities among them including the following:

- 1) Each revival occurred in times of moral darkness and national depression.
- 2) Each revival began in the heart of a consecrated servant of God who was used of the Holy Spirit to expand the revival.
- 3) Each revival rested on the **WORD OF GOD** and was the result of proclaiming **GOD'S WORD WITH POWER**.
- 4) Each revival resulted in a return to the **TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD**.
- 5) Each revival witnessed the destruction of personal idols in people's lives.
- 6) Each revival recorded a personal and unified separation from sin.
- 7) Each revival saw the people returning to obedience to **GOD'S WORD**.
- 8) Each revival brought the restoration of great joy and gladness to believers.
- 9) Each revival was followed by a period of national prosperity.

**OBSERVATION:** Since the birth of the church, numerous times of REVIVAL have been recorded, and a number of them have occurred in the last 500 years. There was the PROTESTANT REFORMATION from 1517 – 1648, the GREAT SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS of 1727, 1740-1742, 1792, 1830, 1857, 1882, the METHODIST REVIVALS in the 1830's and 1840's under John and Charles Wesley and George Whitefield. In the TWENTIETH CENTURY there were at least 15 PERIODS OF REVIVAL where the working of God was very evident.

**THE GREAT AWAKENING REVIVAL:** During the GREAT AWAKENING REVIVAL in America from 1740-1742 it is recorded that at least **250,000 people were saved** out of a population of only 3 million people in the nation. In some communities, it was recorded that **20% of the people came to Christ and great spiritual results took place:**

- 1) New churches were established in the nation.
- 2) Many people were called into the pastoral and missions ministry.
- 3) Many Bible Colleges and Seminaries were founded.
- 4) A great interest in Biblical Missions and Evangelism arose.
- 5) The concept of Religious Liberty was promoted.
- 6) Churches began to start Sunday Evening Services.
- 7) Theological heresy was brought into check.
- 8) Christians began to return to the authority of scripture.
- 9) Evangelical ministries began to work together in evangelism and Bible Conference ministries.
- 10) Churches began to grow and multiply.
- 11) There was a growing emphasis placed on discipleship.
- 12) Local churches placed a greater emphasis upon being born again for those desiring membership.
- 13) Regular and special prayer meetings were established.

### **HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THOSE FACTS IN YOUR THINKING?**

- 1) If you are unsaved, those facts mean virtually nothing to you.
- 2) If you are a carnal Christian, those facts are indifferent to you.
- 3) If you are a spiritual Christian, those facts are very meaningful and encouraging to you, leading you to pray as did the Psalmist in Psalm 85:6, "**WILT THOU NOT REVIVE US AGAIN?**"

### **LET'S CONSIDER THE CONCEPT OF TRUE BIBLICAL REVIVAL**

#### ***I. FROM THE SCRIPTURAL PERSPECTIVE***

A. As seen in the use of the OT Hebrew Word "KHAW-YAW" which means "TO KEEP ALIVE, TO NOURISH UP, TO PRESERVE, TO RECOVER, TO REPAIR, TO RESTORE."

B. As used in the Old Testament Text in various contexts:

1. Ezra 9:8 – A prayer for revival after the Jews return from the Babylonian Captivity.
2. Psalm 85:6 – A prayer for revival after the return to the Land after the Babylonian Captivity with a specific emphasis on cultural and national life.
3. Psalm 138:7 – The assurance of revival in troublesome times.
4. Isaiah 57:15 – God's promise to revive the contrite of heart.
5. Hosea 6:2 – The future revival of Israel (Cp. 2 Peter 3:8).
6. Hosea 14:7 – The future revival of Israel.
7. Habakkuk 3:2 – A prayer for revival after the Jewish Babylonian Captivity.

C. As Applied to the Christian Life - 2 Corinthians 7:1. Note that the word "REVIVAL" is not in the NT but the concept of revival is very evident.

**BIBLICALLY SPEAKING, REVIVAL IS WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE GET RIGHT WITH GOD THROUGH CONFESSING SIN, RETURNING TO GODLY LIVING, AND LIVING A HOLY LIFE.**

#### ***II. FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE***

NOTE: GOD WANTS US TO LIVE IN A PERPETUAL STATE OF REVIVAL.

1 Peter 1:15,16; Romans 12:1,2; 1 Thessalonians 4:7

#### ***III. FROM OUR PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE***

- A. To Awake unto righteousness – 1 Corinthians 15:34 (Cp. Romans 13:11)
- B. To Depart from all iniquity – 2 Timothy 2;19-22
- C. To Confess personal sin – 1 John 1:9
- D. To Walk in the Spirit – Galatians 5:16

#### ***IV. FROM THE LOCAL CHURCH PERSPECTIVE***

NOTE: Christ's personal message to the Church – Revelation 2:1-7

### **EVIDENCE OF A CHURCH NEEDING REVIVAL**

- A. The Refusal to Obey Christ
  1. In Doctrine
  2. In Practice
- B. The Refusal to Promote Christ
  1. In Missions
  2. In Evangelism
- C. The Refusal to Represent Christ
  1. By showing His Wisdom – Ephesians 3:10
  2. By showing His Truth – 1 Timothy 3:15

***LESSON AND APPLICATION***

- 1) Revival is for every Christian and local church to consider.
- 2) Revival is the will of God for every Christian and local church.
- 3) Revival is a great need for our time.
- 4) Revival exalts and glorifies God.

QUESTION: WILL YOU SEEK REVIVAL TODAY?