

"BIBLICAL REVIVAL - WHAT IS IT?"

PSALM 85:1-13

INTRO: For years we have heard people talk about REVIVAL. **Preachers** preach about revival. **Writers** write about revival. **Teachers** teach about revival. **Prayers Warriors** pray for revival. **BUT WHAT IS REVIVAL? WHY IS REVIVAL NECESSARY? WHO NEEDS REVIVAL? HOW DOES REVIVAL COME?** These are just a few questions that must be considered when contemplating BIBLICAL REVIVAL. So, today we are going to begin a series entitled: **"BIBLICAL REVIVAL - WHAT IS IT?"** This is a series that both **DESERVES** and **DEMANDS** our attention because **REVIVAL IS A SUBJECT THAT HAS BEEN AND STILL IS NECESSARY IN THE LIVES OF ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN (THOSE WHO GENUINELY HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD) SINCE THE DAYS OF ADAM AND EVE.** As we walk through this series the question for each for us to ask is: **"TO WHAT DEGREE IS REVIVAL NEEDED IN MY LIFE."**

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QUESTION: WHAT IS BIBLICAL REVIVAL?

1) A Longer Definition: "Revival is the **WORK** of God upon the hearts of **HIS** people, who **CONFESS** their sins, and who **REPENT** from selfish motives that lead to unrighteousness living, and then **TURN** to God with whole-hearted dedication and obedience that results in **GODLY LIVING.**"

2) A Shorter Definition: "Revival is when God's People get **RIGHT** with God."

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PSALM 85 AND REVIVAL

The background of Psalm 85 is probably the return of the Jews back into the Land from the 70 years of captivity in Babylon. Upon returning they were disappointed in the condition of the Land and were asking God to **REVIVE** it. **There are lessons for us to learn about REVIVAL in the Psalm.**

OBSERVATIONS ON REVIVAL IN PSALM 85

1) REVIVAL Restrains the Righteous Anger of God - Vss. 1-5

-God is angry when His children rebel against Him and His Word

2) REVIVAL Restores the Conscious Awareness of God - Vss. 6-8

-Rejoicing in God - Vs. 6

-Mercy from God- Vs. 7a

-Salvation through God- Vs. 7b

-The Voice of God - Vs. 8

3) REVIVAL Reveals the Gracious Work of God - Vss. - 9-15

- Salvation - Vs. 9a - **Revival delivers from Sin**
- The Glory of God - Vs. 9b - **Revival reveals God's Glory**
- Mercy - Vs. 10a - **Revival brings God's Mercy**
- Truth - Vs. 10b,11 - **Revival reveals God's Truth**
- Righteousness - Vs. 10c,11,13 - **Revival brings Righteousness**
- Peace - Vs. 10d - **Revival brings Peace**
- Good - Vs. 12a - **Revival brings the Good things of God**
- Increase - Vs. 12b - **Revival brings Spiritual Increase**

PRINCIPLES OF REVIVAL IN PSALM 85:6

I. REVIVAL COMES FROM GOD - Vs. 6a

"WILT THOU"

-Revival IS NOT **"WORKED UP"** by mankind, but **"SENT DOWN"** by God

-Consider Hosea 6:1,2

ILLUSTRATION:

II. REVIVAL IS NEEDED FREQUENTLY - Vs. 6b

"REVIVE US AGAIN"

-Revival is needed **EVERY TIME** there is a straying **FROM GOD** so that there can be a **RETURNING TO GOD.**

-Consider Hosea 14:1

ILLUSTRATION:

III. REVIVAL IS A RESULT OF PRAYER - Vs. 6c

"WILT THOU NOT REVIVE US"

-Revival is NOT **"PLAYED UP"** by religious activity, but **"PRAYED DOWN"** by God's people.

-Consider Hosea 14:2-7

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. REVIVAL BRINGS GREAT JOY - Vs. 6d

"THAT THY PEOPLE REJOICE"

-Revival brings **JOY** because of what God does in the life of the one who is revived.

-Consider Jeremiah 31:10-13

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION/APPLICATION:

1) Have you considered...do you need revival?

2) Don't get confused:

-Revival is when God's people get right with God

-Evangelism is when unsaved people get right with God

"SOME PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY NEED "REVIVED" NEED TO BE "VIVED" MEANING THEY NEED SAVED. WHAT ABOUT YOU?"

-Vance Havner-

3) If you are saved, can you think of any areas in which you have strayed from God? Or, perhaps you are in a backslidden condition? **THEN YOU NEED REVIVAL AND GOD WANTS TO REVIVE YOU! WILL YOU LET HIM?**