

"REVIVE US AGAIN – A PRAYER FOR ALTOONA"

PSALM 85:1-13

INTRO: We are about to embark upon another **AREA-WIDE CRUSADE** here in Altoona, where at least **TEN LOCAL CHURCHES** will gather under one roof in a united fashion to hear the **WORD OF GOD** preached. This is a very unique event, one that is not done too often, but **IT IS A TIME WHEN WE CAN ANTICIPATE THE WORKING OF THE LORD! EACH OF US SHOULD/MUST PRAY THAT GOD WILL USE THIS CRUSADE TO BRING TRUE REVIVAL TO ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, AND CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA.** Today, I want to preach on the subject: **"REVIVE US AGAIN – A PRAYER FOR ALTOONA."** The BIBLICAL FOUNDATION of our study will be PSALM 85 where the request of the PSALMIST WAS **"WILT THOU NOT REVIVE US AGAIN"** as seen in the sixth verse of the PSALM.

CONSIDERATIONS OF PSALM 85

- 1) The Psalm's title tells us that it was written for the **"SONS OF KORAH"** which was a family of **LEVITICAL SINGERS**. So perhaps the Psalm was written for them to put to music.
- 2) The Psalm may have been written by David, as most Bible scholars surmise.
- 3) The Psalm is a **PSALM OF REVIVAL**, perhaps rendered as the result of the **LAND OF ISRAEL** being delivered either from the oppression of the **PHILISTINES** or the **BABYLONIANS**. We cannot be definite on this.
- 4) The text of the Psalm indicates that God had already been **REVIVING ISRAEL**, but the Psalmist was praying that **GOD WOULD DO MORE** in sending even greater **REVIVAL** to the land. Observe how the Psalm is Outlined:
 - THE EXPLICIT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GOD'S PAST WORK IN REVIVAL – VSS. 1-3
 - THE EARNEST APPEAL FOR GOD'S PRESENT WORK IN REVIVAL – VSS. 4-7
 - THE ENCOURAGING ANTICIPATION OF GOD'S PROSPECTIVE WORK IN REVIVAL – VSS. 8-13
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ELEMENTS OF REVIVAL

VERSES 4-7

- 1) Revival can be defined as when **CHRISTIANS GET RIGHT WITH GOD**. It implies that there is already **SPIRITUAL LIFE (SALVATION)**, but that the spiritual life needs refreshed.
- 2) Revival involves **THREE BASIC ELEMENTS**:
 - REPENTENCE – Vs. 4: **"TURN US O GOD."**
 - RESTORATION – Vs. 6a: **"REVIVE US AGAIN."**
 - REJOICING – Vs. 6b: **"THAT THY PEOPLE MAY REJOICE."**
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PERSONAL APPLICATION OF REVIVAL

- 1) Many of us, **RIGHT HERE AND RIGHT NOW** need **TRUE REVIVAL!**
- 2) Altoona, Blair County and Central PA **NEED REVIVAL! LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!**

QUESTION: WHY IS THE AREA-WIDE CRUSADE SIGNIFICANT FOR REVIVAL IN ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY AND CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA?

I. ALTOONA'S PAST – SPIRITUALLY STRONG

NOTE: At one time Altoona was a **"MINI-BIBLE BELT"**

- A. As Seen in Her Churches (Some near 1000 in regular attendance)
 1. The First Baptist Church of Altoona
 - a. Strong on Foreign Missions
 - b. Strong on Local Church Planting
 - Calvary, Beal Avenue, Fairview, Fellowship, South Altoona
 2. The Calvary Baptist Church
 - Sent scores of people into ministry and missions
- B. As Seen in Her "Para-Church" Ministries
 1. The Central PA Bible Conference
 2. The Altoona Bible Institute
 3. The Altoona Rescue Mission
 4. The Blair Christian Home

- C. As Seen in Her Area Wide Evangelistic Crusades
 - 1. Billy Sunday
 - 2. Billy Graham
 - 3. Oliver B. Green
 - 4. Jack Van Impe
- D. As Seen in Her Bible College Students
- E. As Seen in Her Center-City Memorial (Gospel Hill)

II. ALTOONA'S PRESENT – SPIRITUALLY STALE

NOTE: No longer a "MINI-BIBLE BELT."

- A. The Current Spiritual Condition
 - 1. The Problem of Diminished Churches
 - 2. The Problem of Forgotten Doctrine
 - 3. The Problem of Growing Liberalism
 - 4. The Problem of an Occultic Stronghold
- B. The Current Cultural Condition
 - 1. The Problem of Broken Homes
 - 2. The Problem of Drug Addiction
- C. The Current Civil Condition
 - 1. The Problem of Population Loss
 - 2. The Problem of Increase in Poverty

III. ALTOONA'S PROSPECT – SPIRITUALLY SPECULATIVE

NOTE: Altoona NEEDS REVIVAL – ***THIS CANNOT BE DENIED!***

- A. The Need is Evident
- B. The Necessity is Essential – **HOW?**
 - 1. The Prayers of God's People
 - 2. The Preaching of God's Word
 - 3. The Participation of all True Believers
 - 4. The Promotion of Biblical Values
 - 5. The Pouring Out of God's Holy Spirit