

TEXT- Psalms 85:6 *Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?* **Genesis 26:17-18** *And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there. And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them.*

INTRO - **John Knox** prayed, "Give me Scotland or I die!" George Whitefield prayed, "Give me souls, or take my soul!" Today, millions of American Christians need to pray, "God, revive us or we die!" Without a national awakening, America as we know it is doomed.

In 1944, **Peter Marshall** declared, "Surely the time has come, because the hour is late, when we must decide. And the choice before us is plain — Yahweh or Baal. Christ or chaos. Conviction or compromise. Discipline or disintegration."

Compare that today to the epidemic of open immorality, affecting even our children. Marshall never could have imagined America falling this low.

In 1969 Dr. Bill Bright wrote, "We live in the most revolutionary period of human history. . . . Social band-aids and reform antiseptics give little hope for a cure or even an improvement. A revolution is needed. . . . You can experience this revolution. In fact, you can help bring it to pass."

Also in 1969, **Rev. Tom Skinner** wrote, "I'm convinced America is at her crisis hour. Revolution is inevitable. It's just a matter of which faction is going to prove strongest and will win out in the end. I believe most Americans are so apathetic that they will just sit back and go to whoever wins the struggle."

What would these men of God say today? 1969 was also a long time ago.

It was the year of Woodstock. And it was the year of the Stonewall Riots. But It's doubtful that the most zealous gay activists would have predicted that the Supreme Court would one day redefine marriage. Or that a "married" gay man would run for president. Or that another presidential candidate would say that transgender rights were the Civil Rights issue of our day. Or that **Rachel Levine**, formerly known as Richard, has been named among USA Today's "Women of the Year." Or that the American Library Association would endorse Drag Queens reading to toddlers.

And 1969 was 4 years before Roe v. Wade.

1969 was 4 years before more than 60 million babies would be aborted in their mother's wombs. How much more, then, do we need massive awakening today? How much more do we a sweeping revival in the church that will spark a moral and cultural revolution in the society?

Even if Roe v. Wade was completely overturned, that would not change the hearts of tens of millions of Americans who would fight day and night for the "right" to abort.

Even if the President appointed hundreds of fine judges, including more Supreme Court justices, that would not stop our rapid, national slide down the slippery moral slope.

Even if we were able to push back against radical LGBT activism in the courts and the schools, that would not undo the damage that has been done.

Nor would the LGBT community surrender any of their victories.

That's why there's only real solution for the future of our nation.

We must have divine visitation from God. We must have revival. We must have an awakening.

What else will turn the rising tide of opioid addictions? Or stop the sin of human trafficking? Or address the ongoing epidemic of fatherless homes? Or heal the deep racial divisions that are tearing us apart?

American history has been marked by great awakenings and revival movements, without which we would have crashed and burned long ago.

Our nation was powerfully impacted by a prayer revival that swept the country in 1857-1858.

Before that time, according to the late revival scholar James Edwin Orr, the churches were becoming worldly and internalized, and immorality, violent crime, spiritualism, corruption, and atheism were on the rise.

- **Jeremiah Lanphier**, a retired businessman become missionary, acting in obedience to the Spirit's prompting, began to promote a weekly "Lunch Hour Prayer Meeting" for revival. Only six attended the first meeting, and twenty the second. But within several months, tens of thousands were praying seven days a week.

The revival spread from city to city, jumped across the ocean to England, Ireland, and Wales, and shaped the history of our nation.

From 1857-1858, over 1 million non-church members came to salvation, in addition to 1 million formerly nominal church members who also came to salvation. In fact, at the height of the revival, there were reportedly more than 50,000 new births a week.

As a result of this revival hitting Chicago, the 40-year ministry of D. L. Moody was born. And within a decade, slavery was legally abolished.

According to Mary Stuart Relfe, "The Revival of 1857 restored integrity to government and business in America once again. There was renewed obedience to the social commandments. An intense sympathy was created for the poor and needy. A compassionate society was rebirthed. The reins of America were returned to the godly. Yet another time, Revival became the solution to the problems, the remedy for the evils, the cure of all ills."

And so, our prayer today is, "Do it again, Lord! Revive us or we die!"
Do we have another choice?

I. We Must Go Back To The Source Of Blessing

A. The Philistines had closed the wells.

The rubbish of the world has stopped the wells of God's blessing

B. The history of the church is revival followed by neglect.

C. There has never been a revival in doctrinally false churches

He reason we have no revival is we are content to live without it.

II. The Philistines of Our Day Continually throw rubbish Into God's wells

A. Our enemies are the world, the flesh and the devil

B. The world system is controlled by Satan

The world is against Christianity and the Word of God.

C. The world denies God

D. Immorality is always rampant when Christianity is weak

III. The Solution is Not More Information or Education.

Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

1 Corinthians 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

IV. The Answer Is More God

A. We must humble ourselves

B. We must seek God

C. We must pray

C. We must turn from our wicked ways

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

CONCL – Leonard Ravenhill said it plainly: "Take us out of the nursery to the armory." He calls upon the church to awake to fervent prayer, salting our appetites by the example of others: people he had met personally

(Duncan Campbell, Smith Wigglesworth, Jonathan Goforth's daughter) and people whose lifestyle of agonizing intercession had impacted him (David Brainerd, Praying Payson of Portland, John Hyde, Susanna Wesley and others).