

Revive Us Again

Psalm 85

Introduction:

- This chapter is like Noah sending out the dove after the destructive flood of God's wrath
- The eighty-fifth Psalm is a psalm in the land; the captivity is over. The day of their sorrow is passed; God has brought them back home. They live in their houses again. They've rebuilt Jerusalem again. The temple worship has started again. The Lord's people have been blessed in returning home again. But, they recognize these are just mercy drops- there's something that is still missing!
- "Lord, Thou hast touched my life, touch it again. Thou hast saved my soul, Lord, quicken me again. Thou hast moved in the days in which I have lived, Lord move today; do it again. Do it again. Do it again."
- **This is a prayer for revival!**
- This is for Christians, because you can't get revived, if you've never been "vived." The Psalmist is saying, "The fire is gone out. Would You light the fire again?" Would you stir the soul again?"

- I. What is the time for such a prayer as this?
 - a. When we can remember some gracious acts of God in the past. After some mercy drops, it befits us to cry for showers of blessing.
 - i. Note, the favor of God is the fountain-head of all good, and of all happiness, to nations, as well as to individual people. (James 1:17)
 - ii. As a nation, the USA has certainly enjoyed many blessings from God. As individual people we all can point to instances of God's favor.
 - b. After signals, and indications of Divine displeasure.
 - i. Recently we just recognized 17 years since the 9/11 attacks.
 - ii. "Wilt thou be angry with us for ever?" We are undone if you are, but we hope you will not.

- iii. Will you draw out your anger unto all generations? No; you are gracious, slow to anger, and swift to show mercy
 - iv. Isaiah 59:1-2, II Chronicles 7:14
 - v. Revive us again- see Ezra 9:8, see Hab. 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. A revival will save a nation. Manasseh was wicked king of Israel, of Judah, and because of his wicked return to idolatry God said, "I shall remove the nation out of My sight. The kingdom shall be sold into captivity" [2 Kings 21:14]. Manasseh was followed by his son Amon, and Amon was even more vile and wicked than his father. He was followed by his son Josiah, and the boy was but eight years of age [2 Kings 22:1]. He ascended the throne of Judah in unspeakable iniquity, and tragedy, and sorrow, and sin.
- d. He sought the Lord, and the Lord looked down from heaven and answered the searching prayers of young King Josiah [2 Kings 22:13]. And searching through the temple, opening the doors for the first time in a generation, cleansing out all of the debris and the dust, they found the Book of the Lord [2 Kings 22:8]. And Josiah, having it read before him [2 Kings 22:10] and the people, resolved under God to turn from their sins and to seek the face of the Lord [2 Kings 22:10]. And there broke out a great revival in the days of the King Josiah
- e. Had it not been for the revival of John Wesley, the same bloodbath that seized the whole French nation would have covered England itself in blood. But while the French were slaying each other, and the guillotine taking its toll by the thousands by the day, England was having a great revival under John and Charles Wesley and George Whitefield.
- f. The Great Awakenings led to the birth of our nation, abolition of slavery, the modern missionary movement, and
- g. A revival will save a nation, and the same chaos, and the same rioting, and the same blood that characterized France can also characterize the racial conflicts

and the economic conflicts and problems that besiege America. America is not immune from all of the judgments of Almighty God, but the great revival of John Wesley can also save America. Oh, that our eyes might see, in our day and in our time, a great turning to God! Revival can save a nation.

- h. Revival can save a city- just ask Jonah and the inhabitants of Nineveh- a city perhaps worse than NYC!
 - i. Revival can save a soul! Before there can be widespread revival, there must be individual revival!
 - j. When the saints become lethargic, lazy, unenergetic, and unmotivated.
 - k. Illustr- A personnel manager rejected a job applicant because the firm was overstaffed. But the would-be employee persisted, "The little bit of work I'd do won't even be noticed!"
 - l. When ministry efforts seem to be useless. Many programs, no presence. "Having a form of godliness..."
 - m. When we have among us a number of people who are backsliding.
- II. The need of such a prayer. Who needs it?
- a. The carnal. The worldly ones.
 - b. The outside public, Hollywood, Washington
 - c. The backsliders
 - d. The same is true of all the members of the Church without exception. Children, Teens, Young adults, Middle aged adults, Senior Saints
 - e. The Pastor. If the preachers grow dull and sleepy, there is no wonder that the people do so; therefore, give us a special place in your prayers that we may be kept right for your sakes, and for Christ's sake, and the Gospel's sake.
 - f. All the leaders of our Church. Often, dead deacons and dead leaders prevent a church prospering; therefore, let us pray earnestly for the leaders of God's church, "Lord, revive them again. Put more spiritual life into them."
 - g. And all the workers, too.
- III. The essence of such a prayer. It means—

- a. They prayed for converting grace: "Turn us, O God of our salvation! in order to the turning of our captivity; turn us from iniquity; turn us to thyself and to our duty; turn us.'
- b. First: turn us, turn our hearts. Then: turn your anger from us
- c. Dependence upon God. Only God can send revival
- d. Importunity with God. Pleading with God for revival. For how long? Hosea says, "For it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you."
- e. Confidence in God- believing God will send revival
- f. Revitalize, repair, rejuvenate, **renew**
 - i. Commitments- If we want God to do it again, we have to be willing to do some things again! Service (Revelation 2:5- repent and return to the first works!), giving, devotion and spiritual walk.
 - ii. This is revival: when God's people recommit themselves to God's work in the earth. Yes, Revival comes from God- but there are responses that God wants to see from us- such as brokenness, and a panting after Him.
 - iii. Like a farmer, the Lord sends the sunshine and the Lord sends the gentle shower of rain, but the farmer must plow and sow and cultivate. God sends His blessing, but His people must dedicate themselves to the task; and that dedication is revival.
 - iv. Renew our passions- hungering and thirsting
 - v. Renew our focus
- g. Boldness in witnessing- a desire for witnessing- this is revival!
- h. Walking in the Spirit in close fellowship and service!

Conclusion:

- Revive us **again**- Fresh anointing, new mercies
- The net result of this prayer- the rejoicing of God's people in Him- delighting in God
- The objective is that we as God's people find our complete delight in Him

- The standard for our ministries is not just keeping people out of jail, or immorality, etc. but that people make at the center of their being, as the central focus of their life delighting themselves in God!
- The results:
 - God's favor- v. 10-12
 - Abundance of desirable things- v. 12
 - Guidance in the way of righteousness- v. 13
- Righteousness and peace aren't even on talking terms here in our day!
- J.I. Packer: Revival is the visitation of God which brings to life Christians who have been sleeping and restores a deep sense of God's near presence and holiness. Thence springs a vivid sense of sin and a profound exercise of heart in repentance, praise, and love, with an evangelistic outflow.
- Each revival movement has its own distinctive features, but the pattern is the same every time.
- First God comes. Revival always begins with a restoration of the sense of the closeness of the Holy One.
- Second, the gospel is loved as never before.
- Then repentance deepens. In the Ulster revival in the 1920s shipyard workers brought back so many stolen tools that new sheds had to be built to house the recovered property! Repentance results in restitution.
- Finally, the Spirit works fast: godliness multiplies, Christians mature, converts appear.