

Revive Us Again

Part One

Wilt Thou Not Revive Us?

(Psalm 85:6) Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?

(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.

There are many good books, sermons, teaching and preaching on how to have revival that line the shelves of pastors and collages. And yet we are still in dire need of a heaven sent and Holy Spirit empowered revival in our churches and personal lives. It's not that we don't know about or how to have a real revival, but we are not meeting the conditions of God for it to be ours. The love of God is unconditional and salvation is free unto all that will call upon the name of the Lord, but revival is conditioned upon our obedience.

The Lord desires to revive us again but it's not His choice, it's our choice personally and collectively and nationally. Today I don't see a lot of rejoicing in the Lord from the believers or in many churches as well nationally. We need a personal and a collective church revival that will spread throughout our country that will result in God's people rejoicing in Him. The Christian believer- (not all saved are Christ-followers), should be one of the most glad and rejoicing folks to be around (Ps.100:2, 4).

With most of our churches in decline, pastors hurting and discouraged, churches closing, ministries and marriages failing, confusion on basic doctrine, churches with cultural worldliness and the list could go on, we need revival! No wonder Thy people are not rejoicing in Thee, they have taken their eyes off the Lord-(Ps.141:8). God's people are dull of hearing the Word of God it makes no difference in their lives-(Acts 28:7) and they have hearts filled with pride- (James 4:6) But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Revive us Lord!

Praise the Lord, He still can and will revive us again if we are willing to meet His conditions for a personal and collective revival. There may not be anything new under the sun, but hopefully there can be a fresh reviving of our hearts unto the Lord. May there be a fresh anointing of oil from the Holy Spirit with power from above into our hearts that makes a change in us to (Phil. 4:4 "rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say rejoice").

May we see our churches, pastors and members serve the Lord with gladness again that those around us may see we are indeed the children of God and rejoice in Him. Wilt not Thou revive us- "again", I believe that He is just waiting on us to yield and humble ourselves that He may show Himself mighty and strong that we may rejoice in Him again. There are no substitutes for obedience in seeking revival. May we all seek the Lord in honesty and sincerity, that He would send revival into our hearts once again.

Bro. Mickey
SCM

Revive Us Again

Part Two

Wilt Thou Not Revive Us? It takes Humility!

(2Chron.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.”

Four things are revealed in this verse that will lead us to hear from God, having sins forgiven and seeing healing take place in those who claim to know the Lord. This we know is referring to the children of Israel but we can also make this application to any of God’s children (2Tim3:16-17). We are assured that God is no respecter of persons, and what He will do for others He can and will do for us, if we are willing to follow His word and obey His commands.

The first thing that He says to His people that are called by His name is to “humble themselves”. Often God will humble people, but what He really wants is for His children to willingly submit to Him and humble themselves. The Lord is looking for a meek and humble people to bless and heal their land- (lives, family, church and nation), but He stands against our pride (James4:6). It’s not that we don’t know that we should humble ourselves, but we neglect or refuse to obey the promise (John 13:17) “If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.” We would be happier if we would just humble ourselves.

Practicing Humility:

- **By giving the glory and credit to God** – pride seeks to puff up and to take the credit that rightly belongs to the Lord (Ps.29:1-2).
- **By acknowledging the need of it** – many don’t think that they are prideful and can’t see their own need of humbling themselves. Pride keeps us from seeing our need of humility in our (personal life, families and churches) (2Chron.32:26).
- **By listening to God and others** – some have a know-it-all attitude and will not listen to anyone, not even the Lord. Humble people practice listening more than speaking in order to learn to help and encourage others (Pro.1:5).
- **By following instructions** – pride keeps people from following good and godly instructions from the word of God and godly counselors (parents, pastors, preachers, teachers, spiritual friends) (Pro.6:23).
- **By loving and forgiving others** – if we are humble then there will be a loving heart for others in the Lord. Humility seeks reconciliation by forgiving others.
- **By willingly serving others** - It is Christ-like to humble oneself to be a servant to all (Phil.2:5-8).
- **By putting others first in Christian love** – pride and selfishness demands first place without regard to others (Rom.12:10).

John Belt gives three good thoughts on practicing humility;

1. **Simple Obedience** to God through a life yielded to the Holy Spirit.
2. **A Disposition that Reflects** the Nature of Jesus Christ
3. **Giving God the credit** at the source of your life, inspiration and accomplishments.

If we would truly seek the Lord in helping us to become humble, He would be glad to answer our prayer. Be honest and sincere because teaching us humility will mean dealing with our pride.

Bro. Mickey - SCM

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Part Three

Wilt Thou Not Revive Us? It takes Prayer!

(2Chron.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."

The second thing that He says to His people that are called by His name is to pray. This should be a given, but in many churches it is a sin that should be confessed because of prayerlessness. Leadership in the church should demonstrate the importance of prayer by the way that they themselves pray in and outside the church. Many times we fail to see God move or work in our churches simply because of our lack of praying and seeking the Lord to do something— "yet ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4:2).

Most of our churches still have (Wednesday evening prayer and Bible study) or whatever they may call it today. The purpose was to meet with the church and have a real time of sincere and genuine prayer (James 5:16) and then a Bible message to encourage and challenge the members. Today what I've seen is just a preaching service (nothing wrong with preaching) with very little or no real time spent in praying. With many churches they spend more time on announcements than prayer, or the taking of request for prayer without truly investing the time to pray for the needs of the people who asked for prayer. How much should we pray? That depends on how much we want to see God answer our prayers. With praying, more is always better than less, because it shows our dependence upon the Lord who will answer our prayers.

Practicing Praying:

- **By setting aside personal and collective times for prayer** – if we are leaders in the church then we should set the example for others to follow in our praying. Leading others by example is scriptural and beneficial in helping the church to pray.
- **By not just knowing the methods but following the model of praying (Jesus)** – When we pray, not if we pray our prayers should demonstrate our study of Jesus with His prayer life - (Luke11:1-13).
- **By having more opportunities to pray at church** – many times we get into ruts and think that there is no other time or way to have prayer at the church. It may just surprise many pastors that people are willing to come and pray if we only ask them. First things first, maybe something else could be limited in time for more prayer (Matt6:33).
- **By having the leadership to pray before each service** – if we truly believe that God will answer our prayers, shouldn't we ask Him for His blessing before each service. This may be just a few or however many people that are willing and available to pray for each service. Taking time to pray before each service is a good investment of priorities. This should include the pastor, staff, deacons, teachers or anyone else that wants to pray for the service.
- **By teaching and training people how to pray** – many times we assume that our church members know how and are practicing praying. In reality most don't practice praying at home or at church because of their lack of training and discipleship in the area of prayer.

Praying in and out of the church is one of those things that we have to continually keep before the people in helping them to see the importance of its priority in the church and our personal lives. Our praying is our dependence upon God, how much are we praying? Revive us again in our prayer life.

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Part Four

Wilt Thou Not Revive Us? It takes Seeking the Lord!

(2Chron.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.

The third thing that He says to His people that are called by His name is to seek My face. We are assured that God is no respecter of persons, and what He will do for others He can and will do for us if we are willing to follow His word and obey. Are we truly seeking God's face or the seeking the face of many different things other the God? We have to be humble and prayerful in seeking God's face, if not we will not see His countenance and the way He is leading.

Many believers and churches today are seeking God through various other means rather than the way He has said to approach and seek Him (John 14). Churches are trying to do more rather than be more like Jesus Christ, if we would just look unto Jesus (Heb.12:2) and follow close in a personal relationship with Him we would be seeking the face of God. All the clutter, confusion and disorder found in a lot of ministries would be taken care of if we just seek His face and the things that He has given us to do. Being more like Christ produces doing more like Christ and He is not overwhelmed with life, church or ministries.

Practicing Seeking God's Face:

- **By Seeking a more intimate and close relationship with Jesus** – seeking Jesus is seeking the face of God (John 14:9). Is Jesus really first place in my life, family, church, ministries? Are we just going through the motions of duty each week just to survive in the ministry?
- **By Seeking God through His word** – there is no real seeking of God's face apart from knowing and seeking Him through His word. The word of God has to have a place of priority in our lives if we are to really seek His face. Sermon study is not personal time seeking God's face, though He can always show us His smile when we are studying for a message.
- **By Seeking God through Prayer** – this should be obvious, but the fact is most do not seek the Lord through a meaningful prayer life. Even pastors along with church members spend very little time seeking the Lord's face in prayer. Prayer is looking up unto the one we are to depend upon for help, guidance, provisions, strength, encouragement and the list goes on.
- **By Seeking to be more Obedient** – Jesus said that if we truly love Him we will seek to obey His commandment (John 14:15). Obedience from the child of God brings a smile to God's face, just as it does when our children obey. We don't like to look into the face of the one we are disobeying.
- **By Seeking the Lord First** – putting the Lord in first priority in everything concerning our lives (Col. 1:18). Our priorities shows what we are putting first in our lives, families, ministries, jobs-businesses, money, things. Not that any of these are wrong, unless they are out of priority from the principles of God's word. Where we spend our time, money and focus will determine what are priorities really are instead of what we wish they were.

There is so much more that could be said about seeking the face of the Lord but really the heart must be willing to submit to Him and seek Him with a whole heart. We would do well to ask ourselves what or who is my "first love"? The Lord should not be replaced with another first. Humanly speaking, Kim is my (first love) for over 41 yrs and I still love seeking her face every day. God bless and have a profitable week seeking the Lord a little more.

Bro. Mickey - SCM

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Part Five

Wilt Thou Not Revive Us? It takes Turning from Sin!

(2Chron.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.

(Ps, 36:1) The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, *that there is no fear of God* before his eyes. (Wicked ways basically is are our own way verses God's way of living)

The forth thing that He says to His people that are called by His name is to turn from their wicked ways. What wicked ways is God talking about? Neither Israel, any nation, along with our country and churches or any other people do not like the idea of being called out for their wicked ways. Are there any wicked ways that God is asking us to turn from? What is wickedness?

The word "wicked" described by (Webster's 1913 English Dictionary) says – [*wicked*, fr. *wicke* wicked; probably originally the same word as *wicche* wizard, witch. Evil in principle or practice; deviating from morality; contrary to the moral or divine law; addicted to vice or sin; sinful; immoral; profligate;—said of persons and things; as, a *wicked* king; a *wicked* woman; a *wicked* deed; *wicked* designs.] (ISBE) The state of being wicked; a mental disregard for justice, righteousness, truth, honor, virtue; evil in thought and life; depravity; sinfulness; criminality.

Practicing Turning from Wicked Ways:

- **By Humbling ourselves to the Word of God** – unless we recognize our pride we cannot see our own wicked ways. Pride is the most wicked sin that anyone has to deal with each day and has to intentionally turn from it by an act of your will, by choice.
- **By Asking the Lord to show us Our Sin** – many times we don't even recognize that we are sinning against God and others. There are sin's that so easily beset us (Heb.12:1), they are a habitual practice of life and we need to ask the Lord to show us our wicked and sinful ways.
- **By Practicing the Position of Death of the Flesh** – (Rom.6:11) tells us that we are to actively practice our position of being dead unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Paul said "I die daily" meaning that we are to actively put to death the deeds of the flesh – sin – wickedness and live unto the Lord (vs.12-18).
- **By Walking in the fullness of the Spirit** – (Gal.5:16) this not only helps you but it is an obedience to a command to constantly be filled with the Spirit (Eph.5:18). When we walk in the Spirit any wicked way will be exposed, confessed and forsaken.
- **By Keeping our Minds on the things of the Lord** – what we allow ourselves to think we become (Pro.23:7). Wicked ways start with wicked thoughts that are allowed to be considered and obeyed. Our thinking should be guarded and controlled by the Holy Spirit and the word of God (2Cor.10:5-6 / Phil.4:8).

Of course there are many others ways of turning from our wicked ways that will please the Lord and help others around us. The main thing is that we admit that we do have some wicked ways that need to be confessed, forgiven and forsaken (1John1:9). It's our pride that keeps us from seeking the Lord to reveal to us our wicked ways, which is a most wicked way of resisting God's best. If we would humble ourselves, pray and seek God's face then we would be willing to turn from any wicked way. Have a great week seeking to make some positive turns towards the Lord. There's an old saying, "Turn right and keep straight" that would do us all well.

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Part Six

Wilt Thou Not Revive Us? It takes His "Will"!

(2Chron.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.

(John 7:17) If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

(Phil. 2:13) For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

In this latter part of the verse the word "will" is mention three times after the previous conditions are met. If we would only humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face and turn from our wicked ways, then the "will" that is promised for us that believe "will" be ours. The Lord is always "willing" but we must meet the previous conditions to receive His "will" for our lives. Many times His "will" is what's missing from our live, not just knowing the will of God but doing His "will" brings the promises of His "will" to our lives. We know that these promises were to the children of Israel but they also can be to the believer also, (WWW) "God has never made a covenant with any other nation but Israel, but since Christian believers today are God's people and called by His name, they can claim this promise."

Let's note these three promises.

1. **Will I hear from heaven** – many times we are hearing from man and not from heaven or from God. Hearing from heaven requires a holy listening from a heart that is sensitive to the preceding requirements (humility, prayer, seeking God's face and turning from sin). It takes time to be still and know that He is God (Ps.46:10), so much today is competing for our time and attention. When's the last time we have really heard from heaven?
2. **Will forgive their sin** – God is always ready and willing to forgive our sin and the sinner that repents and will trust Christ Jesus as their savior. The Lord is just waiting for us to confess our sins so He can forgive them so we can have an attitude of forsaking them (1John1:9). The real problem is that there are some sin's that we either don't know what they are or unwilling to admit that we are doing them.
3. **Will heal their land** – this could be taken as their nation down to the states, cities, towns, churches and to our personal families and lives. To be healed in any certain area there has to be an acknowledgement of an unhealthy condition of our life or nation. The Lord is ready to bring the healing to whatever area of life and country, but it starts with our yielding to His conditions for this healing (humility, prayer, seeking God's face and turning from our sin). Whatever healing that needs to take place in our personal, family, church or nation simply starts with our cooperation with the Lord. How bad do we want our healing will determine our willingness to meet His conditions for revival.

Wilt thou revive us again that thy people may rejoice in thee? The Lord stands by waiting for us to make the right move and choice to bring revival back to our lives, churches and nation. The question is are we (willing) to meet His conditions? Please Lord "Revive Us Again"! May our "will" be your "will" in everything.

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