



General Topics :: I have a question needing insight

I have a question needing insight - posted by Yeshuasboy (), on: 2006/9/16 2:13

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

The subject of "Revival" is of great interest to me as I believe it is of many of you. I haven't studied it in great depths, nor am I well-educated in the studies of Theology...but, for many reasons, I love the Lord...He has blessed me...(how can I even say this)...more than I can know or even fathom. I, too, want to see the Lord move in the lives of countless others - whomsoever He wills :-)

In what I've read and heard (so far) on the subject of revival throughout the centuries, I seem to see a reoccurring theme: that there seems to be an outpouring of God's Spirit in "waves". Now, this may just be me...I may be wrong...I've been wrong before, and am sure to be wrong again...However, my question is, if this is so, why do revivals seem to die out? I don't believe that this is the will of God. Why does this happen?

I would like to begin a discussion on this so that when another revival begins again, in the western world, it will continually burn and spread until Christ Jesus returns, and God willing, we will have had time to have learned from past mistakes to not let revival "fade-away" again.

Your comments are very much appreciated...

Thankyou for your precious time, and God bless you and your families with Himself.
richie

Re: I have a question needing insight - posted by enid, on: 2006/9/16 3:27

I can only go by what I myself have read about revival.

In a book about the Welsh Revival, questions were asked as to why the revival died out.

It wasn't the lack of prayer, but the lack of biblical teaching that was missing.

No doubt, prayer is of vital importance, with or without revival.

However, a balance needs to be maintained when the revival does get underway.

In Acts 6v4 the apostles gave themselves continually to prayer AND the ministry of the word.

That's only my thoughts on it. God bless.

Re: I have a question needing insight - posted by Kolombian (), on: 2006/9/16 4:28

Hi Richie, as I read your post I couldn't help but to answer to you what I believe about the revival movement, so I looked for a message in a very regular visited web-page of mine which it is www.awildernessvoice.com I find that pure word is spoken there. So I want to share with you what I found there about revival, which is what I believe too about it. Hope it'll be of true blessing for you, And that you should take the time to read it.

In Christ

Karen

"HE HATH TORN US" by Michael Clark

A few years ago in '96, I visited Bobby Conners' church in Bullard, Texas, where a brother named Larry Randolph from California was the guest speaker. The Holy Spirit was really ringing my bell as Larry spoke. I don't remember all that he said, but I felt a strong spirit of repentance and contrition come over me. I kept saying, "Lord rend me, tear me, expose my heart." Then I heard Him say, "I have torn you, but now I am healing you." That was when I leaned over and asked a brother named Hollis Vaughn, "Where in the Bible does it say, 'He has torn us'?" He told me to look up Hosea 6:1. It reads as follows:

Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After

two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight. Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth. "O Ephraim, what shall I do to you? O Judah, what shall I do to you? For your faithfulness is like a morning cloud, And like the early dew it goes away. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have slain them by the words of My mouth; And your judgments are like light that goes forth. For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. But like men they transgressed the covenant; There they dealt treacherously with Me. Gilead is a city of evildoers, And defiled with blood. As bands of robbers lie in wait for a man, So the company of priests murder on the way to Shechem; Surely they commit lewdness. (Hosea 6:1-9, NKJV).

I believe that the Lord was saying to me through these scriptures that before true revival can come to the Church, we must be torn and stricken and truly "rend our hearts not just our garments..." (Joel 2:13). Until we truly see just how wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked we really are, we won't ever rend our hearts, and we will not call out to Him to heal us. I believe the Lord has prepared and is preparing prophets to hew the Church. These men and women will be those who themselves have been carved out by God, and have rend their hearts, purging themselves of all the dross of self-righteousness, and self elevating pride. These will be those who weep for the lost state of the Church and identify with her shallowness and sin.

I also believe that this season, the third millennium since the birth of Christ, is the acceptable year of the Lord. Two-thousand years ago our Jesus was born to suffer and die. We know that a thousand years is as a day to the Lord (2 Peter 3:8). He says in verse two above, "After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. (Hosea 6:2, KJV). I believe we are in that third day. This is a type of the death and resurrection of Christ, but it is also the path of all who would follow Him.

Colossians 3:4 says, "When Christ our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory." I believe that the fruit of this final revival is going to be a bride that the Bridegroom is worthy of. She will consist of those wise virgins who those who heed the warning in Revelation 3:18. "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see." The Church for which Christ returns will be a glorious Church, without spot or wrinkle, but there must be a tearing and rending, gold tried in the fire, first. Jesus is not coming back for a bride that is a self-indulgent, spoiled brat.

Most of today's church in the west is enamored with the gold of this world instead of the gold of His righteousness which comes only by allowing Him to refine us in His fire. Many of her leaders are parading around in "the King's new clothes" sewn from threads of pride and arrogance by a satanic tailor instead of the required wedding garment of a broken and contrite spirit. And because they say they see, they are truly blind (John 9:41).

I can't help but be reminded of Isaiah 4:1 when I look about Christendom today. "And in that day seven women (the church) shall take hold of one man (Jesus), saying, 'O We will eat our own food (wealth) and wear our own apparel (self-righteousness); Only let us be called by your name, To take away our reproach (We will allow Him to be our Savior, but not our Lord).'" He is calling out to us to intimately "know" Him (Hosea 6:3&6 by the hewing of the prophets, by plagues, by pestilence, and by invading armies) and My people shall never be ashamed. And you shall know that I in the midst of Israel, and that I the LORD your God, and no one else; and My people shall never be ashamed. And it shall be AFTERWARDS, I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh. And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy; your old men shall dream dreams; your young men shall see visions. And also I will pour out My Spirit on the slaves and on the slave women in those days. (Joel 2:25-29 MKJV).

The word "afterwards" in verse 28 above has been the most overlooked word by modern revivalists. After what? Doesn't the context of both of these passages in Joel and Hosea support the fact that first we must be hewn and brought to a place where we see the sin sick state of today's church and our part in its decadence? God first calls out to us to fall on our faces in true repentance and torn hearts, and only then does He pour out the promise of His Spirit. Doesn't it also appear that this final outpouring is accompanied by great natural disasters and a promise that everything that can be shaken will be shaken? Is it not just a remnant that answer His call to true repentance? Joel continues,

And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls. (Joel 2:29-32, NKJV).

We cannot continue to read these verses about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our selective self-deluding way. If we do, it will cost us dearly because we will not prepare our hearts for the coming Bridegroom. We have been so many foolish virgins who have been singing our version of "The World Owes Me a Livin'," when we should be seeking from Him that precious oil for our inward lamps. The night that precedes the Bridegroom's appearance is coming upon us all. (Matthew 25:1-13).

I can not help but see today's western church when I read Jeremiah's words regarding the fallen state of Israel.

To whom shall I speak and give warning, That they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised, And they cannot give heed. Behold, the word of the LORD is a reproach to them; They have no delight in it. Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD. I am weary of holding it in. "I will pour it out on the children outside, And on the assembly of young men together; For even the husband shall be taken with the wife, The aged with him who is full of days. And their houses shall be turned over to others, Fields and wives together; For I will stretch out My hand Against the inhabitants of the land," says the LORD.

Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; and from the prophet and the priest, everyone deals falsely. They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, "Peace, peace!" When there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the LORD.

Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.' Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not listen.'" (Jeremiah 6:9-17, NKJV).

Yes, I expect a glorious fulfillment of these precious promises in Hosea 6 and Joel 2 of a Holy Spirit revival in our day. This is the chosen hour, but first we must rend our hearts and call out to God to heal us and purify His bride in the furnace of affliction before the return of the Son.

Re: I have a question needing insight - posted by Spitfire, on: 2006/9/16 7:44

Quote:

-----why do revivals seem to die out?

Here are my thoughts on this:

To me, what revival is, as you observed, is a wave of God's grace that enables people to see and hear the Truth of the gospel. But, to me, the real Truth of the gospel is exciting to someone who is just getting set free from sin, but the part which isn't so exciting is the process of sanctification which follows.

Think of Jesus when he told his disciples, "Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you can have no part in me." Many went away and followed him no more. The truth about the Kingdom of God is, "Narrow is the way, and only a few ever find it." What does this word, "narrow" mean? Well, I'm no greek scholar, but I think it means "difficult to negotiate", meaning it's hard. It isn't hard because it takes great skill, but it's hard because it takes great humility and the part that makes people go away is their unwillingness to let go of their life.

I believe, if there are great throngs of people heading down a certain path, you better look for another one, cause the fact is, it is so difficult to squash pride that not that many folks will do it. Oh yes, they will say that they have (the tares, it looks like wheat, but it isn't), but they only lie to themselves. They excuse their sin, they speak of "grace". They speak of a God of love. They can't bear the thought that God wouldn't show them mercy, "just because". They have a batting average mentality, "Well, I've obeyed God most of the time." "Nobody's perfect." "God wouldn't keep someone like me out of heaven, would he?" "Isn't that why Jesus died?" "Isn't that what sets Christianity apart from all the other religions?"

Oh! To have the grace to explain this! It isn't about never making a mistake or sinless perfection, it's about a posture toward God!

Just this morning I read in Luke 4 where Jesus had just come out of the wilderness being tempted of the devil for 40 days. It says in vs 14, "And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: **And there went out a fame of him through all the region round about** (folks were excited). Then...as soon as he begins to expound to them why *they* cannot receive what he has to say (implicating them for their pride), vs 28 in the Living Bible says, "These remarks stung them to fury; and jumping up, they mobbed him and took him to the edge of the hill on which the city was built, to push him over the cliff."

In a matter of minutes, they went from packing in to hear what he had to say, to wanting to kill him. Why? Because of their pride. "Surely he isn't saying this about **us**! It's always about me. Always. Why do we think he must be talking about someone else? No! I am the man (or in this case, woman).

Why does revival die out? It doesn't. It's just that those who do continue in their pursuit of God are dispersed throughout throngs who don't. As God said to Elijah, "there are seven thousand who haven't bowed the knee to Baal." Love, Dian.

Re: I have a question needing insight, on: 2006/9/16 8:33

Quote:
-----Why does revival die out? It doesn't. It's just that those who do continue in their pursuit of God are dispersed throughout throngs who don't.

There is a hymn which puts the finger on the pulse for me, which begins,

Search me O God, and know my heart today....

and in the last verse says

Send a revival, start the work in me....

The other thought which came to me while reading the leading post, is that every ten years, there is effectively a new generation. In other words, whichever generational window is opened by the Holy Spirit, it's not very long before a new generation rises to fill the space by those who found God, who, as Dian has indicated, if they stayed on the narrow way, are being straightened more and more by the obedience required of them.

I admit that doesn't sound exciting! But am reminded of a Church of England prayer I once heard in a Methodist church, which is directed to the Lord 'in whose service is perfect liberty'. I liked that, and allow it to challenge me to seek for that liberty which can be found only in His service.... that means to obey Him..... I'm sure this has helped to refresh my personal 'revival'.

Re:, on: 2006/9/16 9:09

*2 Chron. 7:14 (NASB-U)

and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their worthless ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and revival won't be necessary.

*Paraphrase by Ormly

;-)

Re: - posted by mamaluk, on: 2006/9/16 10:30

Are massive revivals sound biblical concepts? Or is it just another way of saying preaching to the crowds of the lost? I have never considered those 'great' preachers in the earlier years revivalists, I just see them as powerful preachers, or sincere evangelists that the Holy Spirit used to draw out convictions of sinners.

I tend to agree with the last post. Someone used to say, revival is for dead people, since Christians are alive in Christ, there shouldn't be any need for revival for Christians. In other words, one needs not to be revived while alive. While repentance and conviction of sins, the Holy Spirit does that with us always, anyhow, that's not revival!

As for the lost/dead in spirit, I think that witnessing by Christians' marks of calling in accordance to Scripture, i.e. by our manifestations of a holy and loving lifestyle in the world, or by living as the light and salt among our own circle of life, will perhaps be far more effective in producing true testimonies to the lost rather than begging God to produce more screaming preachers or emotional launchers to masses of people into 'salvation'. Especially in the present day.

Individual 'revival'/salvation go on and will go on every day and every where, some we know of, some we don't. That is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Seems to me, the word 'revival' itself seems to carry a touch of religious sensationalism to it, may be that's why some well meaning believers embrace this notion so much for so long.

Praise Him.

Re: - posted by Spitfire, on: 2006/9/16 13:02

mamaluk said,

Quote:
-----Seems to me, the word 'revival' itself seems to carry a touch of religious sensationalism to it, may be that's why some well meaning believers embrace this notion so much for so long.

I agree. "Revival" is available to any believer who will spend enough time in genuine prayer and humility before God. I think we call that LOVE. The same thing is true if the fire is gone out of your marriage. Revival dies out because the flames of love must be fanned. (Did I spell that right?)Dian.

Re: ...of a truth - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2006/9/16 14:21

Hi Kolombian,

I appreciated this word you shared.

Quote:
-----I believe the Lord has prepared and is preparing prophets to hew the Church. These men and women will be those who themselves have been carved out by God, and have rend their hearts, purging themselves of all the dross of self-righteousness, and self elevating pride. These will be those who weep for the lost state of the Church and identify with her shallowness and sin.

I really appreciated this in particular. I was thinking this morning about this and how I remember hearing Leonard Ravenhill say something to the effect that prophets are God's men for the crisis hour.

I believe we in the west are in such an hour.

As brother Mike quoted in another thread

O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.

Our enemies continue to increase and our sins do as well.

Selah

But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

It could be scary and unsettling but I know I need it. How about you all?

...and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth

of a truth

God is in you...

...of a truth

Re: Yet... - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/9/16 14:51

Something missing from all of this ...

A number of years ago in a book entitled Revival, I gave the following definition of that term: "Revival is an extraordinary work of the Holy Spirit producing extraordinary results." While that phrase conveys the fundamental concept of revival, over the intervening years I have come to the conviction that one single word describes revival better than any other — that word is "GOD."

There is a very precious sense in which revival is literally "GOD in the midst of His people." His manifest presence produces all that is desirable in revival. The absence of His manifest presence accounts for all that is undesirable during the seasons of moral and spiritual decline that precede revivals.

Revival is a time when heaven comes closer to earth than at any other time in the lives of men and women. If one considers the greatest attraction of heaven, is it golden streets? Is it the tree of life? Is it the presence of angels? Is it fellowship with other redeemed? NO! The greatest allure of heaven is the absolutely unbroken presence of God.

So too, the most fearful aspect of hell is not the fire that is never quenched, the worm that never dies, the agonies that never cease, the evil that reigns unbridled — the most awful aspect of hell is that God is never there. Think of it! After a billion years in hell the sinner still has no hope that God will ever come, even for a moment.

While these are valid definitions and statements about revival, they are nowhere near comprehensive. Through the years, the descriptive language used to portray revival has been very broad and instructive. Please consider some of the names and nomenclature used by our fathers and brothers to describe this precious work. Let me group the more than sixty titles I am aware of under sixteen headings.

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid3162>) Revival Terminology in History

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewcategory&cid107>) Richard Owen Roberts

Re:, on: 2006/9/16 15:57

I like how O.Chambers puts it: "God never sends revival, He sends Himself".

Sounds right to me. :-D

Re: - posted by mamaluk, on: 2006/9/16 18:14

"the most awful aspect of hell is that God is never there"

wow, never looked at it this way, hm..sobering..

sounds foolish i know, but i'd often focused on just the fear of the hellishness of hell

i take for granted so often of God's glory and love and beauty, without even pondering over His total absence !

Re: - posted by Yeshuasboy (), on: 2006/9/16 20:29

Quote:

Ormlly wrote:

I like how O.Chambers puts it: "God never sends revival, He sends Himself".

Amen!!! At this moment, to me, God's presence in the midst of His congregation definitely ignites a true revival...Brokenness, weeping over sins and a selfish lifestyle, etc...When the Lord appears then syes are opened...people are cut to the heart...instead of Christians living for themselves, they start to live for their Savior, loving their neighbors, brothers and sisters...they live for the Lord, and delight in doing so. I really, really believe what happened in Acts 2:37-47 should be happening here in the west. I don't see it, but I believe it should be like this...I think this is pleasing unto the Lord, and I believe I am here to please Him. If some begin to be caught up in the things of the Lord which last forever, instead of the things of the world which will pass away, surely the Lord will delight in this...No? He is a jealous God, desiring a spotless bride. Oh, what a humbling honor to be invited to this great wedding...Many are called, but few are chosen.

Anyway, when another great manifestation of God's presence begins to spread again, here, in the midst of His people, in the West, can not only sin gripe such a thing?

My life is pretty simple, but I'm going to start simplifying it even more. God help me...

The Lord bless you all with Himself,

richie

PS. Thankyou all for your comments...May God show us all what He desires, and by His grace may we act accordingly :-)

Re: - posted by Yeshuasboy (), on: 2006/9/17 5:53

Quote:

crsschk wrote:

Through the years, the descriptive language used to portray revival has been very broad and instructive. Please consider some of the names and nomenclature used by our fathers and brothers to describe this precious work. Let me group the more than sixty titles I am aware of under sixteen headings.

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid3162>) Revival Terminology in History

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewcategory&cid107>) Richard Owen Roberts

Wow!!! :-D

Just beginning to read some of the writings by Richard Owen Roberts. Thankyou sooo much for your help Sir.

May God continually bless you...

An undeserving brother,

richie

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2006/9/20 18:25

Quote:

-----Seems to me, the word 'revival' itself seems to carry a touch of religious sensationalism to it

I think this is more true your side of the pond! We have had very little of the 'revivalist' in the UK. The classic concept of revival as used by the leaders of this site is of the nature of profound God-consciousness which causes men and women to cry to God for mercy until they have the witness that God has heard them. This is the kind of 'revival' witnessed by Wesley and Whitefield and Finney and the move of 1859 and 1904.

It is customary to say that only 'vived' people can be 're-vived' (ie that only people who have once known 'life' can be revived) but this is really playing with words. The word 'revival' is not found in the KJV although various forms of the English verb are to be found there: Gen 45:27; Judg 15:19; 1Kings 17:22; 2Kings 13:21; Ezra 9:8-9; Neh 4:2; Psa 85:6; 138:7; Is 57:15; Hos 6:2; 14:7; Hab 3:2; Rom 7:9; 14:9

'revival' is a term coined to explain/describe times of peculiar God-consciousness which affect both saint and sinner. I am not arguing that we ought not to use the word but just that we can't use the word to describe the phenomena and then define the phenomena by the dictionary definition of the word; that is a confusing circular argument.

There is a New Testament expression which captures my idea of authentic classical revival...
“Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord;”

(Acts 3:19 ASV) Now do the times of refreshing bring the sinners to repentance or does the repentance of the sinner open the way to times of refreshing? ;-)

Re: - posted by mamaluk, on: 2006/9/20 18:33

"Now do the times of refreshing bring the sinners to repentance or does the repentance of the sinner open the way to times of refreshing? "

The former ! Ron, the former!

SOLA GRATIA , sola gratia !! :)

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2006/9/21 8:14

Quote:

-----Now do the times of refreshing bring the sinners to repentance or does the repentance of the sinner open the way to times of refreshing?

Man's response to God's prevenient grace gets the process started, I think. No flesh will glory in His presence. Ravenhill once said that God's first issue with man is not that he/she is bad but they are 'dead' in trespasses and sins. I would argue that God's first issue with man is that they do *always resist the Holy Ghost, as your fathers did so do ye* (type thing). When man becomes 'aware' of God, they resist Him.

“Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord;”
(Acts 3:19 ASV)

When I read this passage I am hearing, "change your mind and turn around or turn to God." I sometimes use the illustration of going some place and on the way changing my mind and turning around. This sometimes happens because the desire to go is not sufficient to make the sacrifice required to take the journey. Other times I may feel it is dangerous to go. Or maybe I get an idea of some place I would rather go. However it plays out, as soon as my mind changes I'm looking for a place to turn my car around. I have had to turn my car around because of inclement weather, etc.

But when we are in need of revival we have to in some sense 'come to ourselves'. One has to see that they are drifting a

way from God in terms of their relationship with Him and that other things have come in to supplant our affection for Him. Once the saints get 'revived' they are in position to boldly proclaim the Gospel. I think of Acts 2 and how the 'witnesses' had seen many things but without the power of the indwelling Spirit they were timid and could not rightly 'testify' of what they had seen and heard. They received about 40 days of instruction and fellowship and had 10 left to seek the Lord and wait for Pentecost.

For me, the question is, what are those '10 Days' about? The disciples had 'seen and heard' many things. They had been eyewitnesses of His majesty. But they lacked something. They had 40 days to get their theology strait and line out the whole Gospel message from OT prophecies. Peter had been restored by our Lord and given the job, 'Feed My sheep.' But they were still lacking something. The infighting was still there I guess as Peter asked the Lord, "What about John?"

Ten days, ten days, what about those ten days?

Re: I have a question needing insight - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2006/9/21 15:44

richie,

I did not carefully read all the posts on this thread, so excuse me if I am repeating a thought shared....

Quote:

-----However, my question is, if this is so, why do revivals seem to die out? I don't believe that this is the will of God.

To answer your question, let me ask you one: have you ever become lukewarm? Why did it happen? and now multiply that by any number of people involved in a revival and I think you will have your answer.

Am I brutal? Perhaps. But the reality is when things start going well for us, we become lax in our time with the LORD and quickly lukewarmness sets in and soon other things replace our love for things of God: like his Word, enjoying God's presence; obedience becomes a matter of debate because logic rears its head...

Make sense?

In case you have not noticed I am speaking from experience.... :-x

ginnyrose