**Revive Us Again!** (Part I)

***Psalm 85:1-13***

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Introduction: Opening illustration: Pastor in India & his encounter with a man & a light bulb. That light bulb for the Christian is prayer for revival, God has the power, & faith is the connection. Psalm 85 was written during the time of Israel's return from captivity out of Babylon. It corresponds with the prophecies of Haggai & Zechariah, around 520 B.C. The message of both prophets was to exhort the Jews to finish building the temple & restore Jerusalem (see Ezra 5:1). Note with me tonight in this Psalm the historical interpretation & the spiritual application. Next Wednesday night we will continue with the practical implication in this Psalm. Consider how we prepare for revival when we are thankful for what God has done, when we are prayerful for what God is doing, & when we are mindful of what God can do!

I. Historical interpretation

A. Praise for past deliverance (:1-3)

1. Captivity overturned (:1) > return led by Zerubbabel (Ezra chs. 1-6).

2. Iniquity forgiven (:2) > received God’s mercy & grace.

3. Animosity removed (:3) > result of 70 years captivity.

B. Prayer for present mercy (:4-7)

Though back in their homeland, Israel had become spiritually complacent:

1. Their unfinished task > Haggai 1:4-11.

2. Their unequal yokes > Ezra 10:1-3.

3. Their untrained children > Nehemiah 13:23-27.

C. Prospect for future revival (:8-13)

1. The completion of the temple > immediate fulfillment.

2. The coming of the Messiah > ultimate fulfillment.

II. Spiritual application

A. Praise for past deliverance (:1-3)

1. Our captivity to sin overturned > Eph. 2:1, Col. 1:13, & John 8:32-36.

2. Our iniquity in sin forgiven > Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:14, & I John 1:9.

3. God's animosity against our sin removed > Isa. 53:5-12, II Cor. 5:21.

The **emphasis** is upon *what God has done*. (Note 6 times, *"Thou hast"* & cf. *“It is finished”*)

The **exhortation** is for us to be thankful. [Has your captivity been overturned? Has your

iniquity been forgiven? Are you still under the wrath of God? - see John 3:36 & 5:24].

B. Prayer for present mercy (:4-7)

Though saved & on our way home to heaven, are we guilty of spiritual lukewarmness?

1. Our unfinished task >

a. Prayer - Acts 12:5.

b. Presence - Hebrews 10:25.

c. Participation - Ephesians 4:16.

d. Pocketbook - I Corinthians 16:1-2.

2. Our unequal yokes > see II Corinthians 6:14-18

a. Yoke identified:

(1) Device used to join 2 oxen for plowing or hauling.

(2) Designed to enable the 2 to accomplish a task requiring compromise on the

part of both.

b. Yoke illustrated:

(1) In marriage - "A marriage should be two people pulling in common bond

toward compatible goals & sharing the load equally” (Burkett).

(2) In money - A partnership: "When a believer & a nonbeliever can maintain

a partnership without conflict over the spiritual goals of the company, it is

normally because the believer has compromised God’s principles” (Burkett).

3. Our untrained children >

a. Faithful attendance to God's house?

b. Family altar with God's Word?

c. Fervent attitude about God's work?

Do we see our service for the Lord as a burden or a blessing?

Illustration: “Spiritual immunization”?

The **emphasis** is upon *what God is doing*.

The **exhortation** is for us to be prayerful.

C. Prospect for future revival (:8-13)

1. The promise of revival (:6, 8, 12).

2. The procedure for revival (:8-9).

3. The product from revival (:9-13).

The **emphasis** is upon *what God can do*.

The **exhortation** is for us to be mindful.

Conclusion: Next week we will consider the practical implication of this Psalm as we anticipate the special meeting coming up with Evangelist Mike Shrock. But for tonight, do we really want revival? The song writer asks, *"Do you really want revival? Do you really want God's power? Do you really want His Spirit, to control your life this hour? Oh repent & turn to Jesus, seek His face & humbly pray. Do you really want revival? Are you willing to obey?"* What are we to do? There must be the prayer of faith as well as the practice of fear. Are you truly thankful for your past deliverance – for what God has done? If so, have you told anybody about that lately? Are you truly prayerful – for what God is doing? Or are you guilty of spiritual likewarmness? Do you see your service for the Lord as a burden or a blessing? Are we guilty of inoculating our children (grand-children) with a “weakened” shot of Christianity, causing them to be immune to it later in life? And are we mindful of what God can do? Can we claim His promise of revival because we are seeking to meet the conditions for revival? Is our prayer, *“Wilt Thou not revive us again: that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?”*