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

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

Pastor Michael Lynn / West Hampden Baptist Church

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Introduction: Last week we looked at the historical interpretation as well as the spiritual application of Psalm 85. We noted that this psalm 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). We considered how we might 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! The parallels from this psalm to us today include our praise for past deliverance (our recollection), our prayer for present mercy (our supplication), & our prospect for future revival (our anticipation).

Note with me tonight the practical implication. This practical implication involves how we can avoid unfinished tasks, unequal yokes, & untrained children. Consider how that revival comes from “fear-full” & “faith-full” prayer resulting in “joy-full” people. Or to say it another way: We fear God, we believe God, & we rejoice in God!

I. The **request** for revival (:6-7)

A. It is a humble request > *“Wilt Thou…”*

1. “***Thou*** is emphatic. **Thou Who** alone canst, **Thou Who** art pledged to it by Thy word”

(Kirkpatrick). [And consider Vance Havner’s thoughts on this verse]

2. “We are dead or dying, faint & feeble, God alone can revive us, He has in other times

refreshed His people, He is still the same, He will repeat His love” (Spurgeon).

B. It is an honest request > *“Shew us Thy mercy, O LORD, & grant us Thy salvation”*

1. They have “seen” God’s wrath; they ask now to “see” His mercy (lovingkindneess).

2. “The plea is for an underserved deliverance, a salvation not only from suffering, but also

from sins” (Plumer).

II. The **requirements** for revival (:8-9a)

A. The prayer of **faith** >

1. The psalmist is listening to what God will say (cf. Habakkuk 2:1 & 3:2).

2. The psalmist will humbly hear & then faithfully report what God says to His people.

B. The practice of **fear** (Hear Him & honor Him) >

1. Fear God (the Arabic reads “worship”):

a. “We have become so busy being happy that we have forgotten to be holy. We have

gone in for fun & lost our fear” (Vance Havner). [The Lord’s Day?]

b. “Faith knows that a saving God is always near at hand, but *only* to those who fear the

Lord, & worship Him with holy awe” (Spurgeon).

2. Forsake sin (*“folly”*):

a. Their *“folly”* of self-confidence, unbelief, & disobedience led to captivity.

b. “Unfeigned repentance & loathing of sin are the best fruits of affliction, & are best

evinced by our not repeating the follies for which we were chastened” (Plumer).

III. The **results** of revival (:6 & 9b)

A. Our joy in the Lord > *“rejoice in Thee”*

1. What do people rejoice in today? “Sports, job, house, family, lottery, etc.??”

2. What was the last thing that made you really happy; caused you great joy??

a. Was it the opportunity to share the Gospel, perhaps lead someone to Christ?

b. Was it the privilege to serve somehow in the Lord’s work?

Illustrate: Christians in India – letter from Bakht Singh.

B. The glory of the Lord > *“that glory may dwell in our land”*

1. The name of God blasphemed??

a. See II Samuel 12:14, *“Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion*

*to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall*

*surely die.”*

b. See I Timothy 6:1, *“Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters*

*worthy of all honor, that the name of God & His doctrine be not blasphemed.”*

c. See Titus 2:5, (the young women are) *“to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good,*

*obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”*

2. The name of God glorified?? > see Matthew 5:16; Galatians 1:24

a. God’s glory manifested (*“…that glory may dwell in our land.”*)

(1) From the verb *“dwell”* comes the word “Shechinah” – God’s manifested Presence.

(2) Fulfilled later in Christ’s first coming (John 1:14); ultimately fulfilled at His

Second Coming & Millennial reign.

b. God’s people motivated [saints rejoicing & sinners repenting].

(1) “Lovingkindness (*“mercy”*) & Faithfulness (*“truth”*), & *righteousness & peace*

are in most perfect harmony (:10)” (Scroggie).

(2) “The restored community will reflect the attributes of God to which it owes its

existence” (Kirkpatrick).

Conclusion: 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. Do you truly desire to hear Him? Honor Him? What are you rejoicing in today? Are you burdened that God’s glory be manifested in our land & that His people be motivated in His service? May I suggest that revival comes from “fear-full” & “faith-full” prayer & results in “joy-full” people?