

REVIVAL / GOD'S INTERVENTION

History is filled with the ebb and flow of changes and upheavals. There are periods of the revival of evil and the decay of cultures and civilizations. Out of such times of darkness and chaos, God often chooses to reveal His goodness and glory. He looks for a remnant and even just an individual who will be God's conduit to ignite a revival of God's holy fire that will burn the chaff out of people's lives and cause a transformation of various areas of society in a city, region or even a nation.

In 1994 I was invited to teach some courses at a Bible School in London, England. My first interest in the subject of revivals began in 1978 when I received a copy of Charles Finney's book entitled 'Revivals of Religion'. Since then I have collected many books on the subject of Revival. In 1994 I entitled my course: **Revival: God's Intervention**. Here are some insights and excerpts from that writing.

Practical definitions

- * Revitalization of God's people for a divine attack on society
- * God's military tactic that concentrates vital blows at crucial moments
- * God reinvigorates His truth and power upon His people

Biblical definitions

Hosea 6:1-3

- v.1 RETURN to the Lord / God heals his people from the inside out
- v.2 REVIVED (return to life) Restoration so we can recognize His presence
- v.3 PRESS IN to honor and know God / God rains down His blessings

Habakkuk 3:2-4

- v.2 God becomes 'famous' again and renews his former awesome deeds, being merciful
- v.3 'God came' / Revival is God showing up in our day! His glory covers the heaven and his praise fills the earth!
- v.4 His splendor and power are seen

Isaiah 64:1-4

- v. 1 God opens the heavens and comes down.....things shake!
- v. 2 God's enemies know that He is at work/ revival effects society at large
- v.3 God does awesome things
- v.4 God 'acts' / He shows his uniqueness by acting for those who wait for Him
- v.7 God's people stir themselves up (stir up in Hebrew is: to make an effort, rouse oneself when oppressed by a spirit of slumber
'take hold' = Hebrew 'to fasten upon, seize hold of, be obstinate

Joel 2:12-14

- v.12 God's people return with all their heart to God
- v.13 Hearts of God's people are opened and become receptive

- v.14 God leaves great blessing behind
- v.19 God satisfies his people fully
- v.28 Outpouring of God's Spirit with prophecy, dreams, visions etc.

Acts 3:19-21

Repentance	turning from evil
Faith	turning to God
Cleansing	sins wiped out and forgiven
Times of refreshing	soaking in God's wonderful presence
Restoration	God renews and makes things new (fully so when Jesus returns)

There is an atmosphere of fear, anger, discouragement and great deception in our world today. Many persons I know can not believe what is happening to our country. Leaders in many areas of society are calling good evil and evil good. The righteous are censored and punished while the lawless are praised and rewarded. This is all contrary to God's ways.

'Woe to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit and wickedness as with cart ropes.....Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness.' - Isaiah 5:18, 20

'Kings, authorities and governors are sent by God to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.' - 1 Peter 2:14-15

'Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.'
Galatians 6:7-8

It is easy to get cynical, angry or discouraged during these times of uncertainty, moral morass and disdain for God's absolute truth. However, we must always turn our eyes towards our King and His Kingdom.

Jesus is unchanging and His Kingdom is unshakable

As I studied the history of revivals, I noticed that they occur when they are most needed. Revival takes place during times of moral darkness and national discouragement. This seems to be one of God's specialties.

Where sin increased and abounded, grace (God's unmerited favor) has surpassed it and increased the more and superabounded.
- Galatians 5:20 Amplified Version

In our next message we will explore this concept further. The world may look hopeless, but we have an anchor in God our hope. - Hebrews 6:16-19