

Revival Will Come When...

Revival is more than simply having a special guest preacher and a few extra nights of meetings. True revival is a work of the Holy Spirit. That is why Habakkuk prayed, "... O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years..." (Habakkuk 3:2).

Revival Will Come When We Recognize Our Need. Psalm 139:23-24

Do you ever get discontent with your spiritual progress? Do you ever hunger for something more from God, or sense conviction from the Holy Spirit that things are not what they should be or could be? As long as you and I are content to keep the status quo spiritually—as long as we think we are doing fine—revival will not come. Denial of our true condition is a major obstacle to revival. Real revival will not come until we reach the place where we cannot and will not ignore the truth of our spiritual condition. The simple fact is: if we never take time to let God speak to our hearts, and show us our need, we will never experience revival.

Revival Will Come When We Confess Our Sin.

Revival is held back when God's people refuse to get right with Him. How can the Spirit of God freely work when our hearts are pre-occupied with other things? David understood this and sought the Lord's cleansing and restoration in Psalm 51:10-13.

I am constantly amazed at God's grace in my life. He truly is patient and longsuffering with me and is always, always, ready to hear my cries for mercy and forgiveness—when I repent and confess my sin to Him (Isaiah 57:15).

Did you notice? God will revive the spirit of the humble and the heart of the contrite ones. We often quote 1 John 1:9. But we often forget the verse begins with the word *if* and that is the great pivoting point. No confession—no forgiveness and no reviving of the heart. The importance of confession is seen in 2 Chronicles 7:14 as well. Will revival come? Yes, I believe it will, but only to those who are of humble hearts and willing to confess and forsake their sin.

Revival Will Come When We Ask for It. Jeremiah 29:11-14; 33:3

When we are confronted with our sin, the devil tries to keep us from moving toward God. He tries to hinder us even after we have fully and honestly confessed our sin and received God's forgiveness. Remember the words of David? "*Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*" David understood that a clean heart needs the joy of God once again.

Jeremiah 29 has one of my favorite passages of encouragement. It reveals God's message to Israel at a time when they were going to be chastened for their sin. God extends to His people—including you and me—an offer of His presence and renewed Spirit.

We need revival, and I believe God is ready to send it when He hears our prayers lifted up to Him and sees our seeking hearts. Paul wrote to the believers at Philippi, "*That I may know Him.*" That should be our cry and heartbeat. God invites you and me to see what He can do in us, through us, and for us.

Revival Will Come When We Are in the Place of Revival. Hebrews 10:24-25

Revival is an individual decision between you and the Lord. Although if the church is setting days aside with this emphasis, why not be there? If you're hungry, you go to the kitchen or a restaurant. Why not go where other believers are gathered with the same desires?