"Preparation For REVIVAL!"



Psalm 85:6; 2 Chron. 7:14; Acts 19:17-20

6/26/02

**** Our Father please, REVIVE US AGAIN***

I. The Nature of Revival (Psalm 85:6)

"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? "

A. **The _____ of Revival is through _____**
("Wilt Thou. . .?)

B. **The _____ of Revival is _____**
("Thou")

C. **The _____ of Revival is _____ LIFE**
("Revive . . . again")

D. **The _____ of Revival are _____**
("Us . . . Thy people")

E. **The _____ of Revival is _____**
("That thy people may rejoice in Thee")

II. The Heart of Revival (2 Chron. 7:14)

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

***God will respond to the heart that returns to Him.**



How must you return? You must return to God with:

A. **A _____ Heart**

B. **A _____ Heart**

C. **A _____ (devoted) Heart**

D. **A _____ Heart**

III. The Effect of Revival (Acts 19:17-20)

A. **The Lord is _____ (v.17)**

B. **The Lord's people publicly _____ their Sin and _____ of it (v.18-19)**

C. **The Lord's _____ (v.20)**

"Preparation For REVIVAL!"

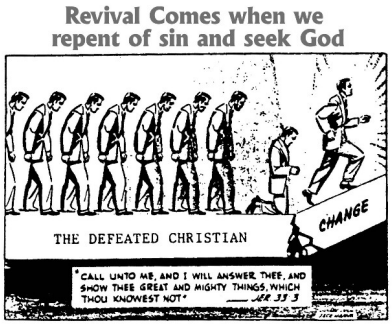
Psalm 85:6; 2 Chron. 7:14; Acts 19:17-20

6/26/02

**** Our Father please, REVIVE US AGAIN***

I. The Nature of Revival (Psalm 85:6)

"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? "



A. The <u>POWER</u> of Revival is through <u>PRAYER</u>
("<u>Wilt</u> Thou. . .?)

B. The <u>PRODUCER</u> of Revival is <u>GOD</u>
("<u>Thou</u>")

C. The <u>PURPOSE</u> of Revival is <u>RENEWED LIFE</u>
("<u>Revive</u> . . . <u>again</u>")

D. The <u>PEOPLE</u> of Revival are <u>BELIEVERS</u>
("<u>Us</u> . . . <u>Thy</u> people")

E. The <u>PRODUCT</u> of Revival is <u>REJOICING</u>
("That thy people may <u>rejoice</u> in Thee")

II. The Heart of Revival (2 Chron. 7:14)

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

***God will <u>respond</u> to the heart that returns to Him.**

How must you return? You must return to God with:

A. A <u>HUMBLE</u> Heart

B. A <u>PRAYERFUL</u> Heart

C. A <u>SEEKING</u> (devoted) Heart

D. A <u>REPENTANT</u> Heart

III. The Effect of Revival (Acts 19:17-20)

A. The Lord is magnified (v.17)

B. The Lord's people publicly acknowledge their Sin and Repent of it (v.18-19)

C. The Lord's Word Spreads (v.20)

"NEEDED: REVIVAL!"

Psalm 85:6; 2 Chron. 7:14; Acts 19:17-20

6/26/02

**** Our Father please, REVIVE US AGAIN***



I. The Nature of Revival (Psalm 85:6)

"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? "

A. The <u>POWER</u> of Revival is through <u>PRAYER</u>

("<u>Wilt</u> Thou. . .?)

Ex. Revival in NYC which sparked the "Great Awakening"
Ex. The Welsh Revivals

All were a result of prayer

B. The <u>PRODUCER</u> of Revival is <u>GOD</u>

("<u>Thou</u>")

Revivals don't come out of the brief case of a pastor; They don't come merely because advertisement is made (flyers are mailed etc.); They don't come merely because a special speaker comes to preach. Rather, they are God-sent at His sovereign time of choosing.

C. The <u>PURPOSE</u> of Revival is <u>RENEWED LIFE</u>

("<u>Revive</u> . . . <u>again</u>")

To "re-vive" means to impart life again. Note the scene of vv.4-5. When God revives a person he is spiritually refreshed. The windows of heaven seem to open. Showers of blessing are poured out. The darkness & gloom of one's soul turns not light. The lethargy & luke-warmness of one's life turns into zeal & fire for God. Ones life becomes filled with a new burden to pray; A fresh interest in the word; A deeper love for fellow believers; A deep concern for lost souls; A genuine conviction of sin.

D. The <u>PEOPLE</u> of Revival are <u>BELIEVERS</u>

("<u>Us</u> . . . <u>Thy</u> people")

Unbelievers cannot be <u>re</u>vived since they have never been "vived" in the first place.

E. The <u>PRODUCT</u> of Revival is <u>REJOICING</u>

("That thy people may <u>rejoice</u> in Thee")

II. The Heart of Revival (2 Chron. 7:14)

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

The context of II Chronicles 7 involves the dedication of the newly-built Temple by Solomon.

This wonder of the ancient world--decked with gold, silver, and precious stones--was magnificent to behold. It was a place of sacrifice. A place of vicarious offerings for sin. Animals would be brought and sacrificed here in anticipation of the great and complete propitiatory sacrifice Christ would one day make on this same holy mount.

READ: 5:1 - The Temple is finished

5:13, 14 - God's glory fills the Temple

6:18-21 - Solomon's praise and prayer

6:24-30, 33,35,39 - Solomon's continual plea for God to hear the requests made in or toward this Temple (which was a temporary place of propitiation - Our place of pardon is Calvary)

7:1-5 - The Temple is dedicated



READ 7:12, 13 - God is sovereign over all events, even drought, plague, and pestilence. [The reason for such catastrophes on Israel would be because of disobedience to His Law; such disobedience would place them under a curse (Dt. 28).]

Misfortune and misery are directly linked to a people's abandonment of God and His Word.

V. 14

"My people" - In context, a reference to the Israelites, who were to be called "people of Yahweh."

The one reason why God would send trouble upon the land and lives of His people is because of their backslidings. God's law of sowing and reaping is avoided b no one, not even God's people.

Although originally given specifically to the nation of Israel, the principles found in this verse are applicable to the Church today. The responsibilities of humility, prayer, seeing God's face, and repentance are repeated in both the New Testament Gospels and Epistles.

If there was ever a time you loved God more, you are backslidden.
If there was ever a time you served God more, you are backslidden.
If there was ever a time you enjoyed God's company more, you are backslidden.
If there was every a time you found more fulfillment in God's work, you are backslidden.

Everyone who backslides does so for four reasons. Satan sidetracks people four ways:

--Pride
--Prayerlessness
--Preoccupation (other things become more important)
--Pollution from the pleasures of sin

True believers often temporarily drift from an intimate fellowship with their heavenly Father. (Permanent apostasy is indicative of the fact that the were never saved to begin with.)

***God will respond to the heart that returns to Him.**

How must you return? You must return to God with:

I. A HUMBLE Heart

It was pride which always led to Israel's abandonment of God. In the Old Testament, when she abandoned God, judgment (chastisement) always followed.

"Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18).

God *"will destroy the house of the proud"* (Prov. 15:25).

"Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honor is humility." (Prov. 18:12)

"Humble themselves" - No one can humble you. They might humiliate you, but only you can humble yourself.

Humility is simply seeing yourself for who you really are. It is having an accurate view of yourself. The ancient Greeks said, "Humility is truth." Truth about yourself.

People have an over-inflated view of themselves because they have an under-inflated (inadequate, low) view of God.

Your view of God will determine your view of yourself.

No one saw the sovereign omnipotent holiness of God without immediately attaining a humble view of themselves (EX: Isaiah, Job, Peter, John, Israel [II Chron. 7:3]).

The psalmist said, *"When I consider the works of Thy hands. . . What is man that Thou art mindful of him?"*

We are like *"grasshoppers"* (Is. 40:22).

Why does humility head the list in verse 14? Answer:

1) No one sincerely ***"prays"*** who is not humble

   In pride the have puffed up feelings of <u>self-sufficiency</u>.

   "I don't need anything from God."

2) No one ***"seeks God's face"*** if the are not humble.

   In pride the flaunt their <u>independence</u>.

   "I can make it without seeking His face."

3) No one ***"turns from their wicked ways"*** if the are not humble.

   In pride they think the will escape <u>accountability</u> for their sin.

   "He caught and convicted others; I'm different, I'll get off the hook."

II. A <u>PRAYERFUL</u> Heart

The troubles of life are often God's way of getting us to pray.

We <u>should</u> pray always; we <u>must</u> pray when a crisis strikes.

"You have not because you ask not." (James 4:2)

"If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." (Jn. 14:14).

"Call unto me and I will answer thee. . ." (Jer. 33:3)

"The prayer of the upright is His delight" (Prov. 15:8)

"Could ye not watch with me <u>one hour</u>?" One hour of prayer should be a minimum, according to Jesus.

Prayer has become a "lost art" in American fundamentalism today. It is the most important exercise we can be engaged in, and yet it is the most neglected spiritual duty.

No day should begin without a prayer time. It is more important than showering, shaving, brushing your teeth, or eating breakfast.

The most vital occupation you can engage in is prayer.

A Pattern for Prayer:

A doration
C onfession
T hanksgiving
S upplication

--for your needs
--for others' needs
family, friends, church members, neighbors, co-workers

There has never been a revival (a mighty movement of God's Spirit) without prayer.

III. A SEEKING (devoted) Heart

Sometimes God allows affliction to come our way so we will seek Him.

"I will go [and] return to My place, till they acknowledge their offense, and seek My face in their affliction the will seek Me early." (Hos. 5:15)

"Seek My face" -

--Not the face of idols or false gods (money, materialism)

--Not the face of man (*"Vain is the help of man"*)

It's amazing how quick people are to seek the face of:

--a psycho-therapist (secular shrink, worldly counsellor)

--Uncle Sam (welfare system)

--A guru; charismatic leader

. . . Rather than the God of the Universe!

How do we seek God's face?

Answer: Not by seeking signs and wonders, visions and dreams.

"An evil and adulterous generation <u>seeketh after a sign</u>" (Mt. 12:39).

We seek Him by going to the place where His face is revealed. --The Word of God.

To seek God's face is to <u>seek His help</u>.

(Cp. how God would hide His face [i.e. help] from the wicked - Dt. 31:17, 18; 32:20)

Psalm 27:8-9 - *"When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek. Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation."*

Psalm 105:3, 4, 5 - *"Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore. Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth."*

Is. 55:6-7 - *"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."*

Jer. 29:13 - *"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."*

IV. A <u>REPENTANT</u> Heart

God's requirement for you to recover from backsliding is to ***"<u>turn</u>"***

--Not <u>cover-up</u> your sin, but turn from it.
--Not <u>justify</u> your sin, but turn from it.
--Not <u>shift the blame</u> for our sin, but turn from it.

"Turn" - Not simply to change direction, but to <u>return</u> (turn back, go back) to a previous place of departure. God wants the backslider to return to the place of departure and get back on the right path; to mend the wrongs committed and reconcile with the ones wronged.

"Wicked" (ra) - Badness in general. A broad term which usually refers not only to the moral evil but to the hurtful, distressing, miserable calamities which result from the evil.

"The way of transgressors is hard" (Prov. 13:15).

If America does not turn from its evil, God's judgment will fall upon it (like ancient Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome).

Jer. 18:8 - *"If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them."*

"Ways" (derek; akin to direction) **-** the wicked road, path, journey, or course of life must be turned from.

Why would anyone stay on a road that leads to miser, lostness, destruction?

"Then" - Then and only then.

No short cuts; no alternative routes. Only when God's four-fold path to blessing is followed can we expect to receive the promises.

"I will hear" - I will listen to your heart's request with interest and responsiveness.

"I will forgive" - I will pardon your sin and not hold it against you (from a practical standpoint) (positionally we have already been forgiven).

"I will heal" (rapha) - Like a physician, Jehovah Rapha will make healthy a society to the degree that His people influence that society.

Is God faithful to this promise? Yes. Those who seek God are blessed; those who rebel are under a curse.

Rehoboam	(II Chron. 12:1-2, 6-7, 12)
Asa	(II Chron. 14:9-12; 15:1-2; 16:7-10, 12)
Jehoshaphat	(II Chron. 18:1-3; 19:2; 20:2-4)
Uzziah	(II Chron. 26:5-7, 16)
Hezekiah	(II Chron. 32:24-26)
Josiah	(II Chron. 34:1-3, 26-28)

New Testament examples: John Mark
Simon Peter
The Prodigal Son (Lk. 15:17-24)

-

III. The Effect of Revival (Acts 19: 17-20)

A. The Lord is magnified (v.17)

B. The Lord's people publicly acknowledge their Sin and Repent of it (v.18-19)

It has been estimated that the value of the wicked materials that were burned was 138 year's pay. (By 1999 standards that might be over 4 million dollars)

Next Sunday, we will utilize our furnace to burn any books, tapes, videos, or any sinful material you wish to rid your life of.

C. The Lord's Word Spreads (v.20)

Revival Comes when we repent of sin and seek God

