



Sunday November 08, 2015

Revive us Again (Part-1)

a call to pray for revival

Psalm 85:6 Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?

Psalm 85 must have been written after the Babylonian captivity, when the Jews returned to Jerusalem from Babylon.

Here we have a prayer, a cry for revival. A cry to see things back where they ought to be.

Revival simply means to bring something back to life, to breathe life into something, so as to bring it to its original state.

Important point: The plea for revival is so that people will come to a place of rejoicing in God Himself.

Seasons of Revival

Acts 3:19

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times (Greek 'kairos' = seasons) of refreshing (Greek = 'reviving') may come from the presence of the Lord,

Once we repent, are converted, and forgiven we are now positioned to receive seasons of refreshing. Many seasons that bring reviving and refreshing.

These are seasons where there is the outpouring of God's presence upon us as a people.

Now we understand that a season usually has a start and an end. Hence, we also call these 'seasons of refreshing' or outpourings of His presence, as 'visitations'. God is visiting His people in an unusual way, above and beyond what they are normally experiencing. This is what revival is.

We can also look at it this way:

1 Corinthians 5:4

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

We know the Spirit of God dwells in each of us as believer. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

We also know that as we gather together the Lord is present with us. The power of our Lord Jesus Christ is present.

But we also do know that there can be varying levels of this power in manifestation and operation. Sometimes it seems like there is 'no power'. Often there is 'some power'. However,



in a time of revival, outpouring or visitation, as we see in the Early Church, people know that there is 'great power'.

Acts 4:33

And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

We read a little bit here of what this 'great power' was causing to happen among the people:

Acts 5:12-15

12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.

13 Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly.

14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

A season of revival (or outpouring, or visitation, or refreshing) is a time when there is a heightened level of God's presence and power with God moving and doing powerful things among His people.

When we look at Church history starting from the book of Acts, we see many outpourings of God's Spirit upon His people. In fact the book of Acts records 40 years of such a visitation of God beginning with the outpouring of God's Spirit in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost.

What happens in Revival (or in an Outpouring)

Both from the book of Acts and through the numerous revivals that we see in Church history, we recognize some interesting things that happen during a season of outpouring, revival or visitation of God upon a community of believers :

#1, A great revelation of who God is

People are filled with awe and wonder of God, His holiness, His love, His greatness, His power. We are overwhelmed and we suddenly become aware of our own sinfulness, frailty, etc.

#2, A heightened revelation of spiritual truth and realities

All of sudden truths that we have heard in the past, come alive. Revelation seems to be jumping off the pages of Scripture. We become passionate for the Word and the deep mysteries of God.

#3, An increase passion, fervor and zeal in God's people toward spiritual things

There is an increased passion for prayer, worship, word, fellowship (including giving and sharing), discipleship, witnessing, missions. People are up and about doing these even without prompting and coaxing.

#4, An increased ingathering of the unsaved

Those who do not know Jesus are drawn in to the Kingdom. Like a magnet the glory of God upon a community draws the unsaved and they are brought in to the knowledge of the Lord.



#5, An increase in supernatural manifestations, unusual and mighty wonders and miracles

Unusual things happen. Things we never expected. Things we cannot always explain. Supernatural manifestations, healings, miracles, deliverances, angelic visitations,...any thing and everything that God desires to do..

#6, A powerful transformation of society above and beyond what is achievable through planned programs

Society around the community is also affected powerfully. Social evils begin to be rooted out and righteousness and truth prevail in the streets.

#7, An equipping and sending out of ministers and starting of new ministries in missions, church planting and spreading of revival fire

Believers are equipped and they begin to go out to impact the world around them. Ministries and missions are birthed way beyond what happens through organized efforts. The fire of revival is carried to other places.

A season of revival lifts the entire church community into a new level, a new realm in God.

In revival things happen that may normally take many years to achieve with our normal church programs and efforts. This is why we need revival.

We see revival as our journey back to becoming what God really intended the Church to be, a habitation of God among man, a dwelling place of God's glory among men. This is why we must pursue revival.

Revival is a rediscovery of our original design, of who we were really meant to be.

Of course God's intent is not that we lose what He has so graciously blessed us with, but that we consolidate and become carriers of revival and ask God for more and more.

Every visitation of God should become a habitation of God and become a move of God released through the church into the community and world.

Praying for revival (an outpouring or visitation)

A revival is a sovereign work of God and we cannot manufacture it. What we can do is to prepare and pray for revival. This is what we wish to impress on our hearts today.

Isaiah 62:1-7

1 For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, And her salvation as a lamp that burns.

2 The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will name.

3 You shall also be a crown of glory In the hand of the LORD, And a royal diadem In the hand of your God.



4 You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; But you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; For the LORD delights in you, And your land shall be married.

5 For as a young man marries a virgin, So shall your sons marry you; And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you.

6 I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent,

7 And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Zion (God's people) and Jerusalem (the city of God) are representative of the Church in the New Testament. We see this from Scriptures like: Hebrews 12:22,23 ; 1 Peter 2:6

The prophet Isaiah is passionate about the people of God. He earlier declared God's glory will be seen upon His people (Isaiah 60), but is also aware of the impending destruction coming upon them through the Babylonians and the captivity that is about to take place. Never the less, the prophet declares that he will contend to see Zion restored.

For Zion's sake, for Jerusalem's sake (vs 1)

Are we passionate about the Church?

Do we want to see the Church where it should be, rather than accepting the Church in its current spiritual state?

Are we more concerned about ourselves and our mundane matters than being concerned that the Church is not where it should be - the kind of Church that Jesus said He would build, a church that is overthrowing the very gates of hell and bringing heaven to earth (Matthew 16:18-19)

Are we just looking to be "at ease in Zion" or will we stir ourselves up for Zion's sake?

Amos 6:1 Woe to you who are at ease in Zion, And trust in Mount Samaria, Notable persons in the chief nation, To whom the house of Israel comes!

I will not keep quiet (i will speak up), and I will not rest (vs 1)

Can we take it on ourselves to not to stop speaking, and not to rest till we see the Church in its place of greater glory!

Until (vs 1)

We will keep speaking and keep stirred up until.. until...however long it takes...we press in till we see the Church in its place of greater glory.

Watchmen..don't keep quiet..do not keep silent...give God no rest...till (Vs 6-7)

Let us stir others up as watchmen who will also the same - those who will not keep quiet and will pray to the Lord, until this is fulfilled.

Will you be one of those who will cry for revival, a mighty visitation of God, an great outpouring of God's Spirit upon us as a Church community?



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>