

Episode 012

Intercession and Revival

Isaiah 64:1-2 (NIV) 1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! 2 As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!

Let us as believers in Christ call out for revival. Yet, revival comes at a cost. Are we willing to pay the price to pave the way for revival?

E M Bounds once wrote, “All true revivals are born in prayer!”

As God’s people, are we concerned about the spiritual climate in our respective countries and around the world, the moral and spiritual decline in our societies? Such conditions should drive us to seek God’s face for spiritual turnarounds! People need to be reawakened to God’s love, salvation and the freedom they can find in Christ alone.

The concept of revival in Hebrew: “Chayah” – means “make alive, nourish up, preserve, quicken, recover, repair, restore, save, keep alive and make whole.”

Who should be desiring for the church to be quickened, made whole, preserved, and kept alive? We must pray with heartfelt passion for this to happen. When the church is revived, she will be stronger and mightier against the powers of darkness. She will be victorious and attract the lost. We need to cry out fervently to God, asking Him to revive His church worldwide. Let’s be on intensive prayer, asking God to move in our cities and nations.



Human characteristics on revival:

1. Spiritual Preparation.

Unity and prayer are two key elements needed for revival. Revival will not come without a hunger and thirst for God that brings intense prayer. There must be a longing to see His manifest Presence and for His glory to shine upon our land.

Acts 1:14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

2. Conviction of Sin.

In revival, people are seized by an overwhelming conviction of sin. God deals with both the saved and the lost. Revival is intensely personal; God convicts you of personal sin, and your soul is in the agonizing grip of a holy God. Often there is weeping because of the awful conviction of sin.

Acts 2:37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

3. God-Consciousness.

In revival, there is a consciousness of God, an awareness of His holiness and power. They feel a divine magnetism toward His presence.

Acts 2:43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

Press on in prayer and fasting for revival in the nations. God must prepare us, His church, personally and corporately for the self-sacrifice that revival entails.

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation. –
Psalm 85:6-7



God's Part – The Supernatural Fire of Revival

Revival spreads like fire. It moves supernaturally and spontaneously with a divine drawing that is beyond human understanding. Every revival involves the preparedness of people and the supernatural sovereign hand of God.

Look at the way God works supernaturally in revival:

1. Spontaneous and Unexpected Working.

Luke described the sudden revival that swept Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost: “And suddenly there came” (Acts 2:2)

2. Supernatural Manifestations.

God can do in a moment what human strivings can never achieve. It is God's divine supernatural work and not man's. In one revival in 1859, there were sudden, supernatural, and extraordinary manifestations. Luke reminds us of the origin of the Pentecost revival: “There came from heaven” (Acts 2:2)

3. Divine Drawing.

There is a divine consciousness, a divine drawing from God. Luke reminds us that what began in a private gathering soon captured the attention of a city: “When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment” (Acts 2:6)

Let us each realize that we must be broken, united in prayer, and bent on God's glory alone to be prepared for the release of the fire of God and His supernatural workings. May God personally touch each of us so that we might be the broken vessels together in prayer before Him. Let us do our part, and our Sovereign God will do His in His own timing and way.



Preparing For Revival

1. Prepare Yourself in the Way of Blessing Through Intensive Prayer.

Pray with all your heart, asking God to enlarge your prayer and worship life. Make time for God, and practice fasting.

2 Chronicles 7:14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2. Be Serious About Personal Revival.

Instead of spending hours watching TV, playing computer games, being on social media etc, learn to pray. Lay aside our own pursuits, make more time for the Lord.

3. Become Dissatisfied with Sin, and Ask God to Convict Your Heart.

Be sensitive to His conviction. Not rationalise sin.

Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Revival begins with us. It is all of us individually getting our lives straightened and turning from the crooked paths. Take seriously the need for personal revival. Take seriously the need for prayer. Our cities, nations need God's revival. Shall we be His instruments?





Discussion

1. What is one thing that God is speaking to your heart as you glean through this podcast on revival?
2. Would you like to be God's instrument that ushers in His revival? Discuss 1-2 small steps to get this going





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