

1. Revival Fire in the Church

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- Today we will speak about revival fire in the church
- There've been numerous outpourings of the Spirit over the history of the church
- It's time for a fresh outpouring of the Spirit in our day

Habakkuk 3:2 (NIV) *Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.*

(NCV) *Lord, I have heard the news about you; I am amazed at what you have done. Lord, do great things once again in our time; make those things happen again in our own days ...*

- Prophet Habakkuk reminded God about His mighty deeds in times past
- He asked God to repeat these mighty deeds in his day
- Past revivals are good, but present day revivals are better
- God is not the God of the past or the future - He is the God of the "now"

1. Seasons of Refreshing & Revival

Acts 3:18–21 (NLT) *But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah—that he must suffer these things. **19** Now **repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.** **20** Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. **21** For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets.*

- Apostle Peter is preaching to a crowd of people after a lame man was healing at the gate called Beautiful
- He proclaimed Jesus Christ to them, and said: His Name, through faith in His Name has made this lame man whole
- Then he proceeded to tell them about the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ, and told them that they needed to repent of their sins & turn to God
- Vs.20 Then times of refreshing will come from the presence of the Lord...

- Times of refreshing implies: “a cool breeze on a hot day, periods of rain in dry & parched conditions, relief from difficult, distressful or burdensome circumstances”
- Times of refreshing are seasons of refreshing & revival
- **Revival is a by-product of the Presence of God**
- We don’t seek after revival, we are seeking after the presence of God
- No presence means - no revival
- The words “Presence of God” can also be translated as “Face (or countenance) of God”

Acts 3:19–20 (WUESTNT) *Therefore repent at once, instantly changing your attitude, and perform a right-about-face in order that your sins may be obliterated, in order that there may come epoch-making periods of spiritual revival and refreshment from the presence of the Lord ...*

- Revival & refreshing comes to us from “the presence of the Lord”
- Evidently, revival is preceded by repentance
- When somebody wishes to experience revival, they should repent of any and all known sin in their life
- To a certain extent, **the measure of revival** that we experience is **equal to the measure of our repentance** from sin and a self-ruled life

2. Ezra the O.T. priest spoke of Revival in his day

Ezra 9:8 (NKJV) *And now for a little while grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival ...*

- These are the words of Ezra who had returned from the Babylonian captivity to Jerusalem, to oversee the restoration of temple worship
- He speaks about God giving them a measure of revival
- Spiritual revival is typically experienced in measures
 - There are measures & levels of revival
 - There are seasons of revival
 - There is a personal revival
 - There is a family revival
 - There is a local church revival
 - There is a City-wide revival
 - Then, there is a National revival

Ezra 10:1 (NKJV) *Now while **Ezra was praying**, and while he was **confessing, weeping, and bowing down** before the house of God, a very large assembly of men, women, and children gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept very bitterly.*

- Ezra led the people in a session of deep repentance
- The people had all come from the Babylonian Captivity where they had learned the ways of the Babylonians
- Now, it was time to detox from their worldly ways, and live according to God's commands

3. Seasons of Prayer & Seeking God's Face

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV) *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 will **forgive their sin** and **heal their land**.*

- God appeared to king Solomon after the dedication of the new temple, and spoke to him about a way & method to achieve national revival
- This is a timeless formula towards revival, reformation & restoration
- If My people (God's people) will:
 - Humble themselves
 - Pray
 - Seek My face
 - Turn from their wicked ways
- Then, God said:
 - I will hear from heaven
 - I will forgive their sin
 - I will heal their land
- This formula towards revival works anytime, every time! It works for:
 - Individuals
 - For families
 - For churches
 - For communities
 - And for a whole nation
- Revival is always only four steps away!
- God says: If you do 4 things, I will do 3 things
- What's interesting is that God said: You need to do something before I will do something

James 4:8 (NKJV) *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

Psalm 16:11 (NKJV) *You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

4. Practical Steps to press into the Presence of God

How can we experience more of the Presence of God more consistently?

Consider the following five things:

1. Prepare your heart more deeply to seek after God more intensely
2. Read Your Bible more regularly
3. Step up your prayer life (Pray in tongues more often, and for longer)
4. Praise the Lord loudly & boisterously (Noisily, lively & unrestrained)
5. Worship Him more intensely (in full surrender to Jesus Christ)