REVIVAL XII

Revival And How To Promote It

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. **2 Chronicles 7:14**

In lesson four we talked about "Praying It Down And Working It Out". We can see that revival has two aspects—the part played by God and that played by man.

We realize that man must pray so that God may work. The Christian must take some actions of faith as he seeks God's face for revival.

The focus of this study is how to promote revival while we pray for the Lord to send revival.

When the Christian has prayed long for revival without the answer, what else should he do?

Let's look at the key words in 2 Chronicles 7:14:

1. Humble
2. Pray
3. Seek
4. Turn

The first key is to humble ourselves. We cannot come to God in pride and arrogance. What does humbling ourselves consist of?

[7] Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

[8] Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

[9] Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

[10] Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. **James 4:7-10**

Let's also look at key words of instruction in the above scripture:

1. Submit
2. Resist
3. Draw Nigh
4. Cleanse
5. Purify
6. Be afflicted
7. Mourn and Weep
8. Humble

The word **afflict**, or **affliction** speaks of pain, distress, torment, even torture. How sorry or sad are we when we realize the condition of God's people?

Let's look at chapter nine of the Book of Ezekiel.

Do we really care that the so-called church of Jesus Christ has become so worldly and pleasure mad? Do we care that the idolatry of sports has corrupted America? Does it bother us that Christians are so proud of their favorite sport, event, or team that they proudly wear and display their names and colors?

Have we become so spiritually sleepy in these last days that we feel at home in a culture that has made a religion of idolizing athletes?

What message do we send to our children when we willingly give up laboring in the church so that we can have our Hollywood and movies in our homes via TV and videos? Do we really expect our children to know the Lord well enough to be strong and do mighty deeds for Christ?

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. **Daniel 11:32**

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. **James 4:4**

[13] Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

[14] As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

[15] But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

[16] Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. **1 Peter 1:13-16**

[15] Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

[16] For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

[17] And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. **1 John 2:15-17**

Much of the church world does not really care about **revival**, what they really desire is to be like the world, dress like the world, make up like the world, wear jewelry like the world, watch TV like the world, and attend the same events the world attends.

Do you want revival? Are you content to be like the world and hope you will somehow make it to Heaven?

[21] Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

[22] Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

[23] And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. **Matthew 7:21-23**

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; **Acts 3:19**