

# CHIEF MINISTRIES

October 2013

## REVIVAL! SEEING THE CHURCH COME ALIVE!

We sometimes look around us at the church (you and I as believers) and what do we see? Usually?...problems, issues. Less is happening than we like and yet the church was Jesus' idea. Have you ever thought that more is happening than you'll ever know? And even if it's not as amazing as you think it is, it's still glorious and beautiful in His eyes. And all the ones you see around you that don't seem to measure up, well... Jesus told us Himself in the parable of the "weeds" in Matthew 13:24-30 that the enemy sowed the seeds of the weeds - right there in the middle of good seed. It is unfortunate that we can't pull them out, but Jesus said at harvest time, they would be gathered up and burned. So don't keep your eye on the nonsense and the ones full of strife and envy, ill will towards one another, sin in general, hypocrisy and evil tongues. God will deal with them. Just make sure you're not one of them! Those things are hindrances to revival, slowers of spiritual growth. Be one of the called out ones. This is mentioned in 1 Peter chapter 2 verses 1-12. *"So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. <sup>v2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—<sup>v3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>v4</sup> As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>v5</sup> you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>v6</sup> For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>v7</sup> So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," <sup>v8</sup> and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>v9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>v10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. <sup>v11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>v12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation." (1 Peter 1:12 ESV)*

God wants to have a gathering of people built into a spiritual house. This concept goes all the way back to the Exodus where God pulled His people out of bondage and yet they sin again and God keeps sending things their way to bring them back.

Let's look at Psalms 85: *To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. <sup>v2</sup> You forgave the iniquity of your*

people; you covered all their sin. Selah <sup>v3</sup> You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger. <sup>v4</sup> Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us! <sup>v5</sup> Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? <sup>v6</sup> Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? <sup>v7</sup> Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. <sup>v8</sup> Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly. <sup>v9</sup> Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. <sup>v10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. <sup>v11</sup> Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. <sup>v12</sup> Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. <sup>v13</sup> Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way. (Psalms 85:1-13 ESV).

This Psalmist gives 3 reasons why God sends revival. The state of the un-revived is vividly described with several words that punctuate this psalm (iniquity, carelessness, un-repentance). The first of these is found in verse 2. Iniquity denotes wickedness, and the tragedy is that this wickedness can be found even in the heart of a redeemed man or woman.

In Psalms 66:18, the Psalmist said, "If I regard (keep). *Iniquity of my heart, the Lord will not hear me.*" Therefore, if we look at anything contrary to the will of God with approval, we erect a barrier between ourselves and God so that He does not hear our prayer. I think we're guilty of diminishing God's standards of expectation by ignoring His divine commands to be Holy. His standard is high for us as His people and we must not forget it.

God's anger is revealed not only against his own revived people, but also against an unrepentant people; "Restore us, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation towards us." (Psalms 85:4 ESV) It is one thing to be passively un-revived, but it is worse to be actively un-repentant. Furthermore, it is a tragedy and travesty when the message of repentance is regarded as applicable only to the un-regenerate sinner. Therefore, the believer must remember that God calls His own people to repentance. Revival is needed to restrain the righteous anger of God.

Revival restores the knowledge of God. Revival can be depicted as either a person or a community overwhelmed with the presence of God. When God makes His glory evident in the life of the individual or community, nothing else matters except the person of Jesus and the glory of His name. Revival is not some emotional excitement; it is rather an invasion from heaven that brings man to a conscious awareness of God. There was an incredible move of God amongst my people, the American Indians in 1745 that missionary David Brainerd recorded. He said it all started when the community was gripped with an overwhelming sense of God, and the power of God seemed to descend upon the assembly "like a rushing, mighty wind" and with an astonishing energy bore down on all before it. He said he stood amazed at the influence that seized the audience almost universally and could compare it to nothing more aptly than the irresistible force of a mighty torrent, or swelling deluge, that with its unsupportable weight and pressure, bears down and sweeps before it whatever is in its way. Almost everyone of all ages were bowed down with concern together.

At the great Pensacola outpouring, the evangelist Steve Hill said that the Lord told him to get ready, and to get out of the way. The Spirit of God was going to show up to represent Himself as

He was tired of being misrepresented by man. Over 5 million people visited this outpouring and it's now denoted in history as the longest running and most incredible move of God in the last 100 years. (Father's Day '95-2002). There was no time limit set for revival here, or a set amount of days. It really started as a prayer meeting 2 years prior where people begin to pray for revival. Isn't that what 2 Chronicles 7:14 says? *"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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive them their sin and heal their land."*

If one has awareness of God, he/she will also know the sounding of his voice *"Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly."* (Psalms 85:8 ESV). The "voice" is the sound of authoritative Spirit-empowered teaching of the Blessed Word of God. Every revival in history has been accompanied by a new recognition of the word of God. Revival, then will restore the conscious awareness of God among His people.

Revival reveals the grace of God. Since the fall of humanity in the Garden of Eden, there has never been a moment in time when God has not been active. Jesus indicated that when He said, *"My father is working still, and I am working."* (John 5:17). God is active throughout this world at the very moment you are reading this, and every moment before it and thereafter. When revival comes, it is as if a veil is lifted and the sovereignty of God is witnessed in a flood tide of action, in areas where previously nothing was evident but darkness and defeat. At the present time God is indeed working, like a quiet stream of water, but when revival comes the stream becomes a mighty flood, sweeping everything before it.

According to Psalms 85, the activity of God is two-fold. First, there is his saving activity; *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*(Psalms 85:9 ESV). God is saving people throughout the world, even though it may seem like a trickle in the desert of human need. However, when God sends 'real' revival, the tens become hundreds, hundreds of thousands and the thousands the millions of converts. Read about church history and you can easily discern the great movements of the Holy Spirit in previous ages - both in Europe and the United States - to understand what God did in matters of months. How wonderful to be visited in such a way. I was blessed to be part of the Brownsville Revival in Pensacola, Florida from 1997-2000 and I'll never forget it, nor be the same after being visited and touched by God's presence.

The second activity of God is His sanctifying power, which is demonstrated in the personal life; *Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other* (Psalm 85:10 ESV). What an awesome picture of a sanctified life. The glorious qualities described there were possessed in the nature and personality of the Lord Jesus Christ. When he indwells the believer - in revival fullness - all flesh can see the glory of God. What are men seeing in you?

Godly living is allowing the perfection of the Lord Jesus to be expressed in one's personality. God desires men and women in whom are married loving kindness, faithfulness to truth, righteousness and peace: *"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking; but righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit"* (Romans 14:17). Godly living is also

allowing the perfection of the Lord Jesus to be expressed in one social life; *Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. (Psalm 85:11)*. No Christian revival has ever occurred without effecting the most outstanding reforms. The relationship between revival and destiny is always demonstrated through Godly living as is concluded in verse 13; *Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way (Psalm 85:13 ESV)*. When the Lord God brings revival blessing, he presents a pathway for his people to follow because *"righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."* (*Proverbs 14:34*) And, the opposite is true; *"where there is no vision, the people abandon all moral restraint (Proverb 29:18)*.

The answer to the question; "Why Revival?" Is simple but more importantly it is vital. Revival restrains the righteous anger of God, it restores the knowledge of God, and reveals the gracious activities of God. Therefore, would you find yourself praying to God: "Will You not Yourself revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?" Ask God directly, if you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, by drawing near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16). As a result, God will provide for the needs of His people and lead them into right paths.

A revived state can happen anywhere, to anyone, at anytime, whenever one asks in preparedness. Are you ready? Are you prepared to ask for revival? Are you prepared to look for revival? Are you prepared in repentance, faith, and obedience to meet the divine conditions for revival? If so, pray with Chief Ministries and the psalmist, "Will You not Yourself revive us again?" Do this for the glory of God to spread throughout the prisons and the world.

Your partner in revival,

Get ready..... Be ready.....

## ***Chief***

*If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part of this, please go to [www.chiefministries.com](http://www.chiefministries.com) and [www.chiefshouse.org](http://www.chiefshouse.org)*

***Christ's***

***Heart***

***In***

***Every***

***Felon***