

GraceLife



The kingdom of God is not going to advance by our churches becoming filled with people, but by people in our churches becoming filled with God.

Seasons of Revival

Habakkuk 3:2 (ESV)

O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.

I. The Meaning of Revival

Revival is the sovereign work of God to awaken His people with fresh intensity to the truth and glory of God, the ugliness of sin, the horror of hell, the preciousness of Christ's atoning work, the wonder of salvation by grace through faith, the urgency of holiness and witness, and the sweetness of worship with God's people. - John Piper

II. The Character of Revival

Psalm 85:6-13 (NIV)

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your unfailing love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints—but let them not return to folly. Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

Evidences of true revival:

- People hunger and thirst for God's Word.
- People have a fresh desire to live godly, holy lives.
- People turn away from sin.
- People pray more.
- People share their faith more often.
- People pray for and support the work of world missions.
- People can't wait to get to church.
- People are quick to want to be reconciled and quick to forgive.
- People are moved to show sacrificial love for others.

III. The Fruit of Revival

Acts 2:41-47 (NIV)

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- Deepening Discipleship

Verse 42 – “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

- Faithful Fellowship

Verse 44-47 – “All the believers were together and had everything in common. ...they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together... they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God...”

- Influential Impact

Verse 47b – “...enjoying the favor of all the people, ... the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

When do we need revival?

- ... when we do not love God as we once did.
- ... when we have little or no desire for prayer.
- ... when our Christianity is joyless and passionless.
- ... when we have time for sports, recreation, and entertainment, but not for Bible study and prayer.
- ... when believers can be at odds with each other and not feel compelled to pursue reconciliation.
- ... when we are content to live with explainable, ordinary Christianity and church services.
- ... when we don't long for the company and fellowship of God's people.
- ... when people have to be begged to give and to serve in the church.
- ... when the fire has gone out in our hearts, our marriages, and the church.
- ... when we are blind to the extent of our need and don't think we need revival.