Revivals And Church History :: WAKE UP!!! (we need revival)

WAKE UP!!! (we need revival) - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/2/11 17:01

I was reading this short article posted on a blog and thought I would share it with others. It is not that profound but really the spirit behind it is of many people that are hurting and grieved as they look at the modern day church. It hurts me to read things like this, Oh there is so much more, I am praying that Jesus can come and make me less and Him more and change my heart so I can diffuse life into this world. I am sick of saying how bad things are but rather to see God change me and make me an agent of change, O Lord we need revival.

WAKE UP!!!

We here in America dont seem to understand that we are no better than the ones starving in Africa. We dont seem to understand that programs, and bible studies and stuff like the "Roman Road to salvation, and many other evangelism schemes DONT WORK! I believe that it is a rare thing to find a saved person in church! In the poorest countries in the world they have the greatest manifestations of God. Why? because they i know that God is there only hope for anything! That a ll good things comes from the father of lights. WE ARE NO DIFFERENT! We wont admit that we need God! We trust in formulas and religious practices and its all a stench in Gods nostrils!

What are you going to do when you face the father and He says " You loved your reputation more than me, you loved your possessions more than me, you cared about yourself more than others.....AM I NOT RIGHT THAT THIS IS THE CURRENT CONDITION OF WHAT SEEMS TO BE ABOUT 75% OF THE BELIEVERS...

Re: WAKE UP!!! (we need revival) - posted by Josiah777 (), on: 2006/2/13 9:46

We are living in a day when the floods of evil have never been so widespread and devastating as they are today. I was listening to an eyewitness account in the Welsh revival in 1904-1905, and he pointed to modernism (a pick-and-choose approach to the Bible, what is truth and what isn't) squelching that great move. People in their day, though nominal believer religious people, had a respect for the Word of God. Now modernism has had a hundred years to not only bud and blossom but to bear its wretched fruit all around us. And modernism is only one of the "isms" that plague to work of God in the world today. The devil knows his time is short, and his agents are working overtime fighting against the inevitable. Sleep is one of his greatest tools against the Church. In the greatest warfare in history, Jesus in Gethsemane, the devil's tactic against the disciples was sleep. It worked then, and it is working today.

What then shall we say to all this? Where sin abounds, grace much more abounds. Revival in our day is going to take an exceeding great grace, more so in generations gone by. But our God is able. The Holy Spirit is the same powerful Holy God He has always been. I think we need to be praying, praying, and believing, believing, believing for God to pour out His Spirit again. I believe He will. We cannot overlook the power of one man of God before the face of His Father. Joshua prayed and the sun and moon stood still. Isaiah prayed, and the sun went backwards. Elijah prayed and the heavens withheld the dew and rain for three and a half years. Jesus prayed, and Lazarus came bursting alive out of the tomb. Paul prayed, and a whole island came alive with healing wonders. God has promised to pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods upon the dry grounds (Isaiah 44:3). If God can find one thirsty man to cry out for the Living Waters, He said would also pour out "floods" on the dry ground, the multitudes of dry, prayerless believers (and even unsaved) who are asleep. Duncan Campbell testified of this again and again. Big fires start from little sparks. Is it possible that I could be that spark for God? I do. Jim Elliot said, "Lord, light these idle sticks for You" (or something to that effect). Am I ignoble? If so, you can be a powerful influence for righteousness and revival in the Church if you could only see and believe the position you have with God as a "prince of the sanctuary" - a priest who stands in the place of blessing between God and man. Gideon prayed, and the fleece was saturated with heaven's dew--a bowl full of water. He prayed again, and the dry ground all around was covered with dew. Let us believe God can do more for those sleepy brothers and sisters around us, to wet their dried up souls with heaven's "dew" and stir their souls about the urgency of our day. He will do it! Let's pray and seek God and stand on His Word. Nothing is too hard for the Lord!
Re: Wake up!! - posted by nacl (), on: 2006/2/13 13:47
Maybe I'll just be repeating what everyone knows already, but I think that the issue with the Western church is one of hunger.

We do not know hunger.

I've heard of Christians in countries such as China where a whole village will share one Bible. They divide it equally among themselves, copy their pages by hand, and trade, so that everyone's hunger for the word can be filled. I personally have three Bibles. I do not know hunger in this way.

We in America have so much to put our trust in. We don't even know that we aren't trusting in God. We say, "hey, I get my check this Friday, so I'll be okay." Do you know what I mean? We have a refrigerator full of food (or half-full, sometimes), clothes and shoes in abundance. Gas in the tank of both of our cars. Many well trained doctors in our area. We may feel at peace, but it is not always God's peace, but confidence in what we have.

Revelation 3:17 "I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Sound familiar?

I know that this is not a new statement. But isn't it the truth. We are content to live without revival, so we do not have it. Isn't that what brother Ravenhill said?

In general, even the way Christ and Christianity are perceived is tainted by the world's thinking. (I just told my wife that I'm going to write a book about just that) We are comfortable with Sunday morning churchianity, for the most part.

My father in law told me yesterday, if you are hungry you will eat. If we hunger and thirst after righteousness, Jesus is the living Water and Bread of heaven to satisfy that hunger. But, are we longing for this food? (Matthew 5:6, John 4:10-14, 6:35)

Let us pray that God will place a hunger in us that only He can fill, and strengthen us with might in the inner man to persevere until He does fill it, to the glory of His name.

D.

P.S. Sorry for rambling.

Re: - posted by Ignitemysoul (), on: 2006/2/13 15:09
America is not an easy place to be someone on fire for God! Easy no! possible yes!

I have this crazy notion that if someone was not on fire for God or hunger for him or not aware of his sinfulness before God almighty, what if he was so bold as to really ask God to show him what does his sin look like to God! Or to ask God with a sincere heart to allow him to really hunger for righteousness. Make A request of God in a manner like this. Would his work, would God respond if you were dead serious! For me God made the first move. He convicted me then I respond ed. Not the other way around. I think God is just waiting for such a question as this!

Just a thought!

Re: - posted by nacl (), on: 2006/2/16 1:26

Quote:
-----------------------------America is not an easy place to be someone on fire for God! Easy no! possible yes!
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I quite agree with you.

The point of my post was advocacy of a biblical Christianity, that is to say a vital union with the person of Jesus Christ (and the fullness of the Godhead through Him), and a rejection of the American (for I can not speak with authority on any other) cultural Christianity, which is a misrepresentation of our God and His version of Christianity.
I pray that the Lord sets ablaze a people for Himself, to the glory of His name!

D.

Re: - posted by brentw (), on: 2006/2/16 12:14

I long to see a day when we go to church and begin the service on our bellies.

Just sit there in church Sunday and look at everyone talking, gossiping, laughing having a good old time, and think while your looking...Where is God in ALL this commotion??? We are so used to this kind of "church structure."

Does anyone ever feel alone in church or maybe I'm out of my mind???

Re: Revival ?, on: 2006/2/17 22:03

I celebrated my 30th year with the Lord.

Back then, all we read was Keith Green, Ravenhill, Wilkerson, Finney, Nee, all the Classics ... we prayed, we tarried, and so on ... did anything happen ... no and yes.

Those who were serious about the Lord Christ Jesus and SAW what was done on the Cross, applied His Work and Word to their own personal lives and then "took up their own cross and followed Him" and went on to WORK for Him, having laid aside all the nonsense and sin a long time ago.

The FRUIT of "revival" should be a person seeing that we are Representatives of Christ Himself on earth.

We are to come into His Image, not a glorified image of ourselves and DO or BE DOING, what He would be doing if He were here in the flesh.

Otherwise, it's just a counterfeit revival.

And the above is not something you want to take much more time to get to.

Back 30 years ago was one thing, but now Wilkerson says, he is and some 'are' in a living, working, active, constant state of 'revival'.

Tarrying for too long, minimizes the work done by Jesus at Calvary and what took place within us at Salvation and at our own Pentecost. We are "resurrected With Christ", we are "seated in Heavenly places", we have all the "fullness" available to us, present tense. We just don't see it "written" and so do not "walk in it".

I fear, that when we stand before the Judge, our Master, He will not be smiling, because we talked about, and tarried for, all that He's already provided about 2000 years ago. All that we've been Commanded to "walk IN", in the Epistles.

If you haven't had your personal "revival" YET ... there's something wrong with your theology. You've been talking too much about 'something' and haven't been on your face, when you should have been long ago and be WALKING IN THE SPIRIT BY NOW.

Please show me the Scriptures to back up half of this "waiting", since Christ's Resurrection and Pentecost ?

We should have reckoned ourselves dead unto sin, prayed till we learned His "still small voice" and then "followed" Him from thence. "Walking in the Spirit" is the complete fulfillment of obedience, relationship and cooperation in active ministry.

IF you are WALKING in The Spirit ... there is No Way you will ever or would ever miss the slightest "move of God" ... but you'd catch it BECAUSE you 'ARE' MOVING IN GOD and 'FOR' GOD.

Tarry in Jerusalem for 40 days, He told them.

After that, REAL conversions, then Spirit Baptism were available instantaneously ... The Book of Acts and every Missionary and zealous Christian since testifies to us.
The Jim Elliot's are those who turn the world upside down. I just read on one Revival site ... that every "Revival" lasted but a short time.

If it's not "personal" revival of the REAL and LASTING sort .... we'll just repeat History again and again, until the Lord comes back.

If your Church is dead ..., get out of there and start a home Church with the zealous-commited and 'active' few.

The one sure sign of a counterfeit striving for or active 'revival', is a lack of a burden for the lost.

Jesus would say ........ "What  'are'  YOU  waiting FOR ?"

Alternatives To Revival - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/2/18 8:46

Some excerpts:

"'It is at the local church level," says Martin Marty in his book The New Shape of American Religion, "where the church's encounter with the world can be most violent, and most productive -- and where opposition from worldly Christians can become most intense ... the church revival, being on a more personal basis and challenge, does affect the morality and attitudes of fewer people, affects them at greater depth."

And Marty continues with this analysis: "The local church is the front line. It is the cutting edge against the world. If that cutting edge is thought of as an institution that circles the globe, it will be impossible to hone or sharpen. But a local church can be honed, it can be sharpened, it can become more effective -- and if enough local churches are honed, or revived, then it will make a more effective contribution to the total task by being more effective in its local task.""

"'It is real revival that we need if our evangelism is to be meaningful and the fruits of it conserved. It is when Zion travels that souls are born. And travel can't be turned on and off like a spigot. Real spiritual births are a result of this travail. We can have religious "abductions" without it, but there can be no spiritual birth without it. The conversion of sinners -- not just people in the altar, but genuine conversion of sinners -- is a result of the revived condition of the church. It is precisely because we do not go in for real revival as often as we should that we have so much frustration and sense of futility in much of our evangelistic activities."

"Dr. Chapman once said that if Finney were alive very few Nazarene pastors would call him for meetings, because he didn't go in for quick results. It was a fundamental conviction with Finney that the church first had to be revived before there could be any worthwhile evangelistic results. He would labor for days to produce a revival in the church, and when the church was revived then sinners would come crying, "What must I do to be saved?"

But we want quick results. Let's see something happen quickly -- no matter whether it lasts; let's get action. Our insistence on something happening quickly might be because we are afraid that if we tarried beyond the frenzy and the hubbub we might get down to our real needs and have our real shams exposed and be confronted with our real selves. And when that began to happen, we might lose part of our crowd. But would that be a tragedy?

In those ten days preceding Pentecost, the disciples began to lose their crowd until it got down to 120. Think of it -- three-fourths of the crowd had left! If some of us had been there we would have said, "Let's get a quartet in here, or a Hollywoo d singer -- we're losing our crowd. Let's at least get somebody in here to crack a few jokes and liven things up a bit. Let's get this show on the road."

But the 120, renewed and filled, did more in one day than they had done before in three years. And it is conceivably that one-fourth of our church members, if truly revived and filled, would accomplish far more than the over four hundred thousand Nazarenes we have on the rolls."

"'General Superintendent Walker said once that it was "possible to have a revival of God's work and have fewer in the church when the revival was over than when it began," and then he quoted John Wesley as saying, when he visited a society and found it "not strong": "We dismissed thirty members. Glory be to God."

Martin Marty suggests that "a willingness to step off the statistical treadmill for a moment, to lose status among the families of competing denominations, may be the better mark of stewardship and evangelism in the present moment.""
There is no such thing as instant revival. And there is no such thing as instant evangelism. Revival is hard, sweaty business. And those who are interested in quick results are never interested in paying that kind of price. It is so much easier, and more sophisticated, to go around asking, "Do revivals pay?" or, "What's wrong with our evangelism?" than it is to get down on our knees before God and pray and agonize and cry and fast until revival comes."

The last trend I will mention is not as widespread as yet, but if resorted to exclusively, or as a substitute for revival, is definitely a step down -- and that is the substitution of visitation or personal evangelism for revivals.

But one is never a substitute for the other. Genuine revival, in fact, will make personal evangelism far more productive and necessary than any talk or series of talks about the advantages or methods of personal evangelism. Our people need not only the know-how; they need the wherewithal -- and revival can be the time of that motivation and dynamic.

We can, of course, knock on doors and invite to Sunday school and church without that renewing and refreshing from the Lord. And it is better to do that than to do nothing. But Fuller Brush salesmen or Avon callers can, and do, knock on doors and "witness" to the desirability of their product. And if we are to be anything more than religious peddlers we must have our hearts warmed and stirred and refreshed and filled periodically -- if our witness is to be spiritually productive. "Ye shall receive power" -- when? -- when we knock on doors? When we hand out Heralds? When we invite our friends? No. "Ye shall receive power" when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. Then whatever form your witnessing takes, God will make it spiritually meaningful and your evangelistic activity will advance His cause.

"Ye shall receive power ... and ye shall be witnesses unto me" everywhere you go. We can be witnesses without that power. We can be witnesses to a certain doctrine or a certain standard or to a certain church or to a certain preacher or teacher, or to the beauty or adequacy of a church plant -- we can be witnesses to all of these without any help at all from God. But if our witnessing does not find its center in Christ, we are off center. And to be an effective witness unto Christ takes more than knowledge, takes more than signing a calling pledge, takes more than human enthusiasm; it takes warmth and full hearts -- warmed and filled by the fresh movement of His presence and power."

"But I am more convinced now than I was then that we must have revival, real revival, if all our witnessing and going is to be meaningful and spiritually productive. Every book that I have tried to write except one has emphasized this truth, and three of them have been exclusively about personal involvement in soul winning.

Each of these evangelistic emphases can be profitable in its place, but whenever any one of them is promoted as a substitute for genuine revival it is a step down and away from that revival emphasis which has been the central agency of our most effective evangelism from the very beginning of our church. And if we fail to recognize the danger and insist on taking those steps down, then we will be led down that well-travelled road that leads to an evangelism wherein, as one put it, "the conference table replaces the mourners' bench, the planning session replaces the prayer meeting, the organizers replace the agonizers, and the promoters replace the passion-filled."

That may be evangelism, but that is a juiceless, tearless, powerless, emasculated evangelism that is a mockery and a denial of that vigorous and effective evangelism the church engaged in when the tides of revival were running strong."

(http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewcategory&cid496) C. William Fisher

Re: - posted by Logic, on: 2006/2/18 9:04

nacl wrote:
Quote:
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Maybe I'll just be repeating what everyone knows already, but I think that the issue with the Western church is one of hunger.
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I would say that the issue with the Western church is one of preoccupation or just plain being asleep.

I always say we cant go back to those olden days of Spurgeon or of those revivals like the Welsh revival because know one wants to take time out of there busy scheduals to go to a prayer meeting or even have one in there house.

There might be pockets of revival here and there but it won't become wide spread until the church gets off there butts and on there faces.
Sermons won't do it and Bible studies won't do it, but prayer will.

The enigma is that God won't bring revival until we are on our knees and pray for it. And we won't get on our knees until God moves us.

I think Prayer therefore is a partnership with God and His church. Like when Daniel read in the book of Jeremiah that God would again look upon His people from whom He had turned His face, their 70 years of bondage would end. So Daniel began to fast in sackcloth and ashes, an outward manifestation of extreme self-abasement. After Daniel had emptied himself of all self-glory and self-righteousness, he sought the face of the Lord God by prayer. From the record, we know that he ran after the Lord in prayer. He pursued the Lord to get His attention.

Gods' Word sais that He will do something but He wants us to pray for it to come to pass.

**Re:, on: 2006/2/18 9:52**

The chief problem I'm seeing is a straying from the Scriptures in all of this.

I see what some man has said, weigh over and above "what is written", when in many places they contradict and add to Scripture.

SOLA SCRIPTURA, or God will vomit it out.

Whenever we put the words of man, above and beyond The Word of GOD, then we have made an Idol for ourselves, and that idol becomes "our righteousness" rather than the righteousness that comes from the cleansing power of the Word and The Word of GOD is the only Words that the Holy Spirit uses, "by the washing of The Word". That is Scripture.

We can make our endless melancholic proclamation and wailing and waiting for personal revival our "Righteousness" in an idol of itself, rather than to "appropriate" the Power already given us in the power of Christ's Spirit Himself.

When we put the words of men on equal footing or give them equal weight as that of The Word, then we have strayed from The Truth.

The Book of Acts is our example to The Church.

It explains how the first Church operated.

It takes but one person on their face, to change all that come in contact with him.

Personal Revival normally comes first.

Even the writer above only mentions "days" of waiting, not year after year after year of waiting for "personal" revival. Neither does The Word.

To be "on fire" as some people speak of, having received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, "endued with the power from on high to be a witness" ... should be the start of our own Personal Revival.

That Baptism should have had the same effect on us as it did to the 120 at Pentecost ... and if it did not, then we need to question what book are we reading from.

While the world goes to hell, we wait for what the Holy Spirit has already been given for.

Why are we not "on fire", so to speak?

We need and are commanded to "have the mind of Christ".

If one has the mind of Christ ... why does it not show by our deeds, actions, burdens, zeal, and burden toward the lost? Where are the gifts of the Spirit?

It appears from Daniel and Revelation, that there will indeed be a people who "win many to righteousness and do exploit s" and "love not their life unto death". I believe they are ready now to do such and ARE doing such around the globe, while others are waiting "for God to move".
He moved 2000 years ago by sending Pentecost .... but we haven't.

Persecution will get somebody in the present free world moving ... that's for sure. As for Spirit filled missionaries and pastors and believers in third world nations and such, they are seeing miracles and martyrdom. And they're praying for us, that we to will be blessed with persecution, so that we will grow in Christ as they have.

Jesus said, "but few there be that find it".

Are we preaching a second act of grace here, beyond the Holy Spirit Baptism in our own lives? Is that what we're asking Jesus for?

Appropriate and obey HIS Word ... then you'll see the "exploits" spoken of by Daniel.

Only HIS Word is 100% inerrant and is Living and able to change the heart of man because it is Spirit and it is Truth. Love HIS Word. Obey HIS Word. Devour HIS Word. That is where the Power is found ... to cease from sin and be as He was in the world. Only His Word can accomplish what He had planned for us from the foundation of the world. His Word is Eternal. No man can stand against or add to or subtract from His Word and prosper.

Re: - posted by Aonefisher, on: 2006/2/18 11:22
The reason Americans dont get it, is because the pastors dont get it, they rely on mans ways instead of hearing from God. There are many men in the pulpit today that cant be there tomorrow if Gods going to move in this country. If the leaders arent going to get it how will the body? God will raise up new people to bring something real to this confused "christian" atmosphere. America is lost in its own prosperity that they only add God to there life, not make him there life!

Re: WAKE UP!!! (we need revival) - posted by breadman (), on: 2006/3/27 10:47
The church for the most part is putting on an act. I have been saved for 12 years and last year my wife and I went through a very hard time in our marriage, divorce papers were filed and oh how the church folks ran from us. After five years of attending the same church, tithing, attending prayer meetings, teaching sunday school, where were these folks when we needed them? We were out of church for three months when I called my pastor for to ask some questions. He told me that we needed to get back to the church where people love us. LOVE US!! No one called for three months. No one would have called. The truth was no one really cared, not really. Until the church stops playing church and really starts moving in the love of God it has nothing to offer. Btw God has restored my family and just the other day our divorce case was dismissed. God taught us much about the church institution during our trials and I am thankful to God.

Re: - posted by habakkuk3 (), on: 2006/4/3 10:20
Here's the scripture that the Holy Spirit quickened to me this time through the Bible that describes the Western church.

Ezekial 16:49-50 (then 56-58) 49 Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, over fed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. 50 They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.

56 You would not even mention your sister Sodom in the day of your pride, 57 before your wickedness was uncovered. Even so, you are now scorned by the daughters of Edom and all her neighbors and the daughters of the Philistines—al I those around you who despise you. 58 You will bear the consequences of your lewdness and your detestable practices, declares the LORD.

Pride, self-satisfied and complacent and that's what I pray the Lord deals with but it has to start in my own heart first.