

## ***Revival***

**Psalms 150:1-6** Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. **2** Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. **3** Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. **4** Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. **5** Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. **6** Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

There is nothing that I enjoy more than dwelling in the presence of the Lord. In taking the opportunity to join in fellowship with the Saints, to partake in the offering of joint praise and worship to our Lord. That's exactly what we'll be doing in heaven Saints! That is exactly what we'll be doing for eternity. If you don't like praising God down here, you most certainly aren't going to like heaven!

So let's take a few moments to pray before we get started on this message. Let us take a few moments to ask the Lord to anoint me as I attempt to bring forth His word. Let us take a few moments to ask the Lord to anoint our ears to hear the word and to help us to apply it to our lives. **Let us pray!**

**Pray for as long as the Lord directs:**

**Could we all please stand for the reading of God's Word.**

**Isaiah 40:31** But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

**You may be seated.**

For those who would desire to know, my sermon today is named simply, "Revival". With that said, I would like to ask you today Saints of God, what is revival? What do you think of when someone talks about revival? What exactly does revival mean to you? Well, according to Webster, revival means:

# *Revival*

“Reviving or being revived; renewed activity, of trade etc. A wave of religious enthusiasm worked up by powerful preachers; awakening; reappearance of old, neglected play.”

To most of us who've been in Pentecostal services for any length of time, revival means a time of services with a guest preacher that's intended to stir us up, to start a fire in our hearts, to help us better serve the living God.

It's a time when we invite those lost loved ones to church in the hopes they will come to an altar of repentance and start a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. These things are all well and good, but what does the bible say about revival? What is a revival according to God's Holy word?

## **Revival (Biblical): My interpretation**

They that wait upon the Lord, meaning they that serve the Lord. They shall renew their strength. Those that serve the Lord with all of their heart, with all of their soul, with all of their mind, with all of their strength. These shall be renewed.

These shall renew their strength, because they're in a constant state of revival, because they are in a constant state of renewal! If you want revival in your heart, you have to serve God with everything that you've got. If you go home from church and you're not totally worn out. You didn't serve God with all your strength. You didn't give God your all! You didn't give Him everything you had to give! We need to give God our all today, we need to give Him our all each and every day Saints!

We need to mount up on the wings of our prayers unto the Lord. The Lord stores up our prayers; they're a sweet smell unto Him. If we're faithful to be in a constant state of prayer, our prayers become a familiar fragrance unto the Lord. An eagle can soar for hours on a gust of wind; we can soar for hours in prayer if we enter into the mighty rushing wind of the spirit while we're praying unto the Lord.

I cannot overstate the necessity of prayer in the life of a Christian! There is nothing more important than prayer in your life, because:

## *Revival*

- Through prayer, we develop our personal, intimate, eternal, relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Through prayer, we develop faith that can move mountains.
- Through prayer, we can heal the sick.
- Through prayer, we'll win souls.
- Through prayer, we'll receive the Holy Ghost.

### *Praise the Lord Saints of God! Praise the Lord!*

Our text also tells us that they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint. When we're serving the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength it may seem like we're getting weary at times. But we're developing spiritual strength. It may seem like we're getting ready to faint at times, but we're developing our Christian walk with the Lord.

I could even suppose that when we're working for the Lord, perhaps we're even building our as yet unseen mansion up in heaven. Think about it! The mansions we have in heaven may be sized in direct comparison to the worship we give to the Lord. It may be sized in direct comparison to our faithfulness to do what God has called us to do.

Don't think that because you haven't won thousands to Christ that you won't have a nice place. If God hasn't called you to win thousands to Him, he surely won't punish you for not accomplishing that goal. But we have to be faithful to accomplish that which God *has* called us to do!!!! We have to be faithful to witness so that we can win souls for God. **It says in:**

**Matthew 3:10** And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

If we aren't winning souls, our time on earth may be shortened. There's many kinds of fruit in the Kingdom of God, but the most noticeable is souls. That's what I worry about Saints. We need to be faithful to witness and win souls for the Kingdom of God! We need to be faithful to what God has called each of us to do in this area! Then, and only then, will God send the type of

# *Revival*

revival that we're currently looking for in this church. A growth of souls for God's Kingdom!

*Praise the Lord Saints of God!*

*So what should we be doing to start a revival?*

## **A. First, we need to repent**

*It says in:*

**Revelation 2:5** Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

I could have used **Acts 2:38** but I'm speaking to saved people right now! So many times it seems that we are too busy to do those things which we know that God has called us to do. Perhaps it's our prayer life, or not spending enough time with our families in prayer. Perhaps we're busy doing good things, Godly things. But like I said last week, we need to pray to ensure that we're not just in God's will, but in God's perfect will!!!

We need to turn away from whatever it is that's taking up all our time. If our time isn't going to our families it should go to our God! We get refreshed by spending time with God. By spending time in prayer, time in fasting, time in study of the word of God. Remember the word tells us that "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!!!"

We're refreshed and renewed when the Holy Ghost moves upon us. Praise God! Whenever we've repented of any sins we might have committed, whether or not we have any knowledge that we've committed any sins, God moves on our behalf. That's why we need to develop a spirit of repentance, a spirit that Job modeled for us in the Old Testament. *It says in:*

**Job 1:1-5** There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. **2**

## *Revival*

And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. **3** His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east. **4** And his sons went and feasted *in their* houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. **5** And it was so, when the days of *their* feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings *according* to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

We may sin unintentionally, or unknowingly, especially if we're young in our walk with the Lord. Therefore it's always a good thing to have a spirit of repentance. We need to repent everyday just in case we have perhaps offended God in some way.

Perhaps those who are married will understand this better than those who are not. At the end of the day, it is always a good thing for a husband to ask his wife for forgiveness for anything he may have done during that day that unknowing to him, offended or hurt her in any way. Ladies, it would be wise of you to emulate the Lord in that you forgive him when he does this..

*Another way to ensure revival in our hearts and in our church is to:*

### **B. Submit**

**Titus 3:1** Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

We need to submit to those in authority over us. That doesn't mean that we let them run roughshod over us, but we're to submit to those God has placed over us in a manner that glorifies God. *The Apostle Paul said:*

**1 Corinthians 11:1** Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ.

## *Revival*

It's important that we search out the heart of those who are in authority over us. The Apostle Paul was trying to get the message across that we're to follow him "only" as he follows Christ Jesus. We are not required by God to follow those who are ungodly as it relates to the church.

As it relates to the world, and our government: We submit to them until it becomes a matter of salvation. If those in leadership positions in our government commit acts of treason and thus disqualify themselves for that leadership position, we are under no legal or biblical obligation to follow or obey them, regardless of their opinion.

In the spiritual world, we follow the word of God, and the bible is our final authority in all things. The bible is written in such a way that we all may understand it if we will but read it. We only follow a preacher as he is correctly teaching and emulating Christ through his words, actions and biblical teachings.

In the carnal world, we follow the constitution and not the president or any other politician. The constitution is the final authority as it relates to our freedom and our rights. It's not up to a politician or a judge to tell us what our rights are. The constitution is written in such a way that we all may understand it if we will but read it. We only follow our leadership as long as they follow the constitution.

### **C. Pray**

*It says in:*

**2 Chronicles 7:14** 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.

We as a country are at a crossroads in our history. We've turned from the pathways of Almighty God onto the wide road that leads only to destruction. Not we as individuals, but as a nation. Those who are in leadership today; are

## *Revival*

there because we have forsaken the laws of God and have worshipped the creation instead of the creator.

As the children of God, we must take it upon ourselves to pray for this country as never before. While we, as individuals, are not responsible for the mess this country's in. The past-failings of God's church to preach an uncompromised gospel *is* to blame. If the church had done her job, we wouldn't have fallen away.

So therefore Saints, the challenge is before us. What are we to do? We're to do just as the scripture has said. We are to call upon His name, humble ourselves, and pray. We're to turn from our wicked ways and pray that everyone else does as well. We're to seek God's face for guidance, for blessing, for deliverance, for salvation, and for liberty.

- Then will God hear us.
- Then will God heal us.
- Then will God forgive us.
- Then will God heal our land.
- Then will we rejoice again.
- Then will folks seek to know the Lord.
- And then, we will have revival!

*And at all times we must follow the admonition of Paul in:*

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** Pray without ceasing.

For our prayers to be most effective, there's something else we must do, **we must:**

### **D. Fast**

**Matthew 17:19, 21** Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? **21** Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

## *Revival*

When we fast, we increase the power of our prayers. It's like the difference between a go-cart and a drag racer. A go-cart can go fast, some can even go really fast, but compared to a Top Fuel drag racer, it might as well be a pedal car.

Fasting is what gives our prayers the extra power to instantly heal the sick, to cast out demons and to raise the dead. Fasting is spiritual vitamins for the soul. When we have a really tough job to accomplish, we have to fast if we want it to be successful!

*And finally, we must:*

### **E. Witness**

*It says in:*

**Luke 14:23** And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled.

We're commanded to witness to people. In the future I'll do a complete study for you on this subject. But for now, what I'm about to say will need to be enough.

We need to be faithful to invite people to church. Foremost, it's a commandment from God, but also, it's the only way that a church survives. If we don't grow, we die. Even if everyone here were to remain faithful to this church until death do us part, once everybody dies, so does the church.

We need new people to replace those who will pass away or leave for other reasons. If we grow larger, we can reach more people at the same time. One hundred people can reach more people than 10 people. Two hundred can reach more people than one hundred. That's just plain math....

Another reason to witness is that we want the Lord to return for His people. *It says in:*

## *Revival*

**Matthew 24:14** And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Jesus Christ is not coming back to the earth until the gospel has been preached. That's right; even the rapture isn't going to happen until the gospel has been preached unto the whole world. I don't know about you, but this old world is getting to be a pretty sad place. Not because of my personal living standards, but because of what I've seen and what I coming down the road!

Everywhere we go Saints, in all that we do, in all that we say, let our lives be a living witness for Jesus Christ to this lost and dying world! They don't know they're lost, they don't even know they're dying. They don't know a thing about God but what they see in some movie, and we know how bad that must be....

Saints of God, we've got to get out the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world, but we have to start in our own city first! I pray that everywhere you go you'll invite somebody to church. I pray that all you do, speaks of Christ to somebody. I pray that all you say will bring honor and glory to the name of the Lord!

Let's have a made up mind that we're going to win somebody to Christ! Let's pray every one of us every day; that God would send someone to us that we might witness to them. When God answers your prayers, don't look on the person, just trust in God! Trust in God and witness to them!

As we bring this service to a close, let us pray: *Pray until God says stop!!!!*