

## How We Can Have A Spiritual Revival Today

Psalm 85:4-6

Psalms 85:4-6 - Restore us, O God of our salvation, And cause Your indignation toward us to cease. Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? Will You not Yourself revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?

### **Introduction:**

- A. When looking at the Lord's church in the United States, it looks much like a sine wave. The history of Israel as God's people was much the same; a series of ups and downs with periods of spiritual strength followed by periods of moral decay and decline.
- B. It may have been during one of these periods of moral decay and decline, perhaps even right after the Babylonian captivity, when the unnamed Psalmist wrote the 85<sup>th</sup> Psalm.
- C. Even today, nations, congregations, and individual Christians all have their times of spiritual strength and spiritual weakness.
- C. Consequently, it is incumbent upon us to look at the Scriptures and determine how we can have a spiritual revival today.

### **I. We Must Revive A Recognition Of God**

- A. We must recognize that God is the Creator - Gen. 1:1; Jn 1:3-4

Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:3-4 - All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

- B. We must fear Him - Eccl. 12:13-14

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

- C. We must put His will first in our lives - Matt. 6:33

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- D. And we must understand that He is the source of everything that is good - Jas. 1:17

James 1:17 - Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

### **II. We Must Revive A Trust In God's Word**

- A. God has always called people to His law - Isa. 8:20

Isaiah 8:20 - To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.

- B. Today, He speaks through His Son, so we must listen to Jesus - Matt. 17:5

Matthew 17:5 - While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

- C. And we must remember that His word always remains the same and will never change - Matt. 24:35

Matthew 24:35 - "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

- D. No revival is possible if His word is rejected - Jn. 12:48

**John 12:48** - "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

E. Thus, we must look to God's word for any hope of revival - 2 Tim. 3:16-17

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** - All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

### III. *We Must Revive Religious Convictions*

A. We must be set for the defense of the gospel - Phil. 1:17

**Philippians 1:15-17** - Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment.

B. We must be ready to give an answer of our hope - 1 Pet. 3:15

**1 Peter 3:15** - but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

C. We must contend for the faith - Jude v. 3

**Jude 1:3** - Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

### IV. *We Must Revive Concern For The Erring*

A. It is an unfortunate fact that members of the Lord's church can fall away - 1 Cor. 10:12; Gal. 5:4

**1 Corinthians 10:12** - Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

**Galatians 5:4** - You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

B. What is the responsibility of the faithful towards those who are erring? - Gal. 6:1

**Galatians 6:1** - Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

C. Thus, we must be concerned about those who have erred from the faith - Jas. 5:19-20

**James 5:19-20** - My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

### V. *We Must Revive Efforts To Save The Lost*

A. That's why Jesus came to begin with - Matt. 9:12-13

**Matthew 9:12-13** - But when Jesus heard this, He said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. 13 "But go and learn what this means: 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

B. And that's what He desires His followers do - Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16

**Matthew 28:18-20** - And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in

the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**Mark 16:15-16** - And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

C. That's exactly what the disciples did in the first century - Acts 5:41-42, 8:4

**Acts 5:41-42** - So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

**Acts 8:4** - Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

D. And we need to follow their example - 2 Tim. 2:2

**2 Timothy 2:2** - The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

### ***Conclusion:***

A. A revival is not accomplished by conducting a highly emotionalized series of religious services that get people whipped up into a frenzy which they then forget the next week.

B. Rather, God's way of reviving us is for us to be convicted by His word that we might turn from following our own desires to seeking to obey His will in all things.

C. And it's something that needs to happen in our lives as Christians on a fairly regular basis (2 Cor. 4:16)

**2 Corinthians 4:16** - Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

D. "Revive" means to bring back to life, but if you're not a Christian you can receive spiritual life from God by obeying the gospel and being forgiven of the sin that brings spiritual death.