

One morning this last week as I was praying and thinking:

Revival has nothing to do with the lost – God breathes NEW LIFE into the lost

Revival by definition is to make something ALIVE AGAIN – it's about us as Christians

Then I opened my email – Newsletter article titled “Prayer the Cost of Revival”

Quote – “The bottom line – Don't pray for revival unless you personally are willing to be revived; God may begin with you, and I warn you that it might be painful”

In 1857 there was a 46-year-old man named Jeremiah Lamphere who lived in New York City. Jeremiah loved the Lord tremendously, but he didn't feel that he could do much for the Lord until he began to feel a burden for the lost and accepted an invitation from his church to be an inner-city missionary. In July of 1857 he started walking up and down the streets of New York passing out tracts and talking to people about Jesus, but he wasn't having any success. Then God put it on his heart to try prayer. So, he printed up a bunch of invitations and passed them out to anyone and everyone met. He invited anyone who wanted to attend to come to the 3rd floor of the Old North Dutch Reform Church on Fulton St. in New York City from 12 to 1 on Wednesday to pray. He passed out hundreds and hundreds of fliers and put up posters everywhere he could.

Wednesday day came and at Noon nobody showed up. So, Jeremiah got on his knees and started praying. For two weeks, he prayed, and no one came. The third week, he began to pray. For 30 minutes he prayed by himself when, finally, five other people walked in. The next week 20 people came. The next week between 30 and 40 people came. They then decided to meet every day from 12:00 to 1:00 to pray for the city.

Before long a few ministers started coming and they said, "We need to start this at our churches". Within six months there were over 5000 prayer groups meeting every day in N.Y.C. Soon the word spread all over the country. Prayer meetings were started in Philadelphia, Detroit, and Washington D.C. By 1859 some 15,000 cities in America were having downtown prayer meetings every day at noon and thousands were brought to Christ. The great thing about this revival is that there is not a famous preacher associated with it. It was all started by one man who began to pray.

What is revival?

1. Revival is the visitation of God that brings to life Christians who have been sleeping
2. Revival is an in rush of the spirit and a time of refreshing
3. Revival is the when the dry and thirsty receive a drenching from the Lord.
4. It is when one believer gets right with God and allows the Spirit of God to fill their life without conditions or limitations.
5. When each believer begins to realize their sin and turn to God.

Who needs revival? I do... Do you?

I can't speak about where you are with God, but I do know that no matter how close I am, I always need to draw closer to God on a daily basis... I suspect the same is true of you

Excuses:

But I'm so busy!!!

We should NEVER be too busy to be revived for Christ.

"I've got enough challenge in my life already"

Are you challenged in the right areas of your life?

Do your challenges have Eternal value?

There are people who are good at not doing the wrong things – so they think they are good people. True revival is not just about staying away from the wrong things, it is being bold enough and close enough to the Lord to have the courage to do the right things.

Let's look today at a story in the Bible that shows the People of God in a place that they needed revival,

Background on the text in Exodus chapter 32:

- Moses on the mountain 40 days while the people are waiting below
- As they waited, they became pretty discontented with their situation.
- They wanted Aaron to give them a god to follow, since Moses is nowhere in sight.
- Golden calf - began to worship something other than God.....
- So Moses comes down from the mountain to see the results of the sin of the people

Read Text: Ex. 32:19-33

Key Verse: Exod. 32:26 – "Moses stood at the camp's entrance and said, "Whoever is for the Lord, come to me." And all the Levites gathered around him."

Earlier in Exodus the Israelites were in AWE of God's power.

Back in Ex 20:23 God told them not to worship any gods of silver or gold, yet they didn't listen.

c. They weren't in Awe of God any more.

d. What about you? Remember when you were saved? You were in awe of God.

i. What about This church? This community?

They were no longer in awe - There Was A Need for Revival.

- a. When Moses came off of the mountain do you think he saw a need for revival.
- b. How do I know the church needs revival? How do I know that I need a revival?

I know I need revival when:

♣ I become discontented with the way God is working. (shows that I have stopped looking to God) – (I'm not listening any more)

♣ I start looking to other gods and I push God aside.

♣ I'm too busy doing my work or playing with my toys and I don't have time to get together with God.

♣ I begin to make excuses for my Sin.

♣ I begin to make decisions or do things that hurt or hinder the spiritual life and relationship of other people

♣ I begin to have a disregard for the relationship that I have with the God

♣ I need revival when I realize that my salvation no longer blesses me because my heart has gradually become hardened to the things of God.

Story of the boy fishing with baby rattlesnakes for worms.

Sin catches us with us one small bite at a time until we are so deep into it we don't notice any more. The fish looked good. Our sin looks good for a while. Eventually, it will kill us.

Why do we need revival today? Because we had a need. We all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.

WE NEED TO BE REVIVED!!!!

II. There Was A Decision for Revival. V. 26 "Who is on the Lord's Side?"

a. There needs to be a time in each of our lives when we purposefully make a decision (commitment) for God.

b. There needs to be a decision to draw close to the Lord... God will never force Himself on you.

c. This is a decision that we make daily for the Lord - Will we take time today for the Lord?

Who is on the Lord's side? - **Matt 6:24** - "No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Rev. 3:15-16 - I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of my mouth

IT'S TIME TO MAKE A DECISION TO GET ON GOD'S SIDE....

c. As people of this church we need to see the Lord up close and personal.

i. We need to be revived individually and as a church

ii. We need to humble ourselves before God.

iii. Acknowledge that He is God and we are all His servants.

As people of this church we need to love the people of this community and families enough to beg God for their pardon, but be tough enough to say to each other..., " Who is on the Lord's Side?"

e. THERE IS A SERIOUSNESS IN OUR DECISION.

- When it comes to if and how we will follow God, we reap the results of our choices.

- Once we make a decision to have revival, there has to be a starting place...

- As the people of this church, we need to set ourselves apart to the Lord and choose each day to devote ourselves irrevocably to the worship of God... You can only make the choice for yourself

It's time to let revival begin... in you

It's time to allow God to live out His will and promises within your life.

It's time to allow the God of the mountain to be the one and only God of your life.

It's time to devote irrevocably to the worship of God.

(altar call and closing prayer)