

# REVIVE ME, LORD, SO I CAN LIVE AGAIN

Revival begins with what resides inside our hearts.

## KEY POINTS

- ❖ According to dictionary.com, revival is a restoration to life, consciousness, vigor and strength; an awakening in a church or community of interest in, and care for, matters relating to personal religion; an evangelistic service or series of services for the purpose of religious awakening. "Re" = "again" and "vive" = "to live".
- ❖ There must be something that is dormant, dead, lifeless, or half-dead (if there is such a thing) and now requires awakening, life, or restoration, for revival to take place.
- ❖ A non-Christian – not a follower of Christ – cannot be revived because one first must live before one can live *again*. You first need to "vive" before you can "re-vive".
- ❖ So, a revival service is not for the unsaved, but is to restore those who have been born again and have already made a commitment to live for God.
- ❖ Even though revival is for God-followers, when you and I have our lives in tune with God's will, God will draw sinners to Himself. The move of God on the lives of believers brings change that draws sinners to God as believers totally surrender to Him.
- ❖ We cannot have revival without turning away from sin. We cannot have revival without repentance and turning towards God. We cannot have revival without humility. We cannot have revival without seeking the face of God. We pray for revival because we are aware that 'our lights have gone out' – in some cases, gone dim. Something is not the same anymore.
- ❖ The Psalmist said, "As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God" (Psalm 42:1 NLT). In verse 2, he said: "I thirst for God, the living God..." We know that God is the giver of spiritual awakening, so we must cry out to Him.
- ❖ God sends the spark; we need to fan the flame. The spark comes in different ways: a song, the Word read, a sermon, a word spoken by a friend, colleague or relative, a poster on a billboard, the news, even social media. These "sparks" get underneath your skin and prick at your conscience. They "ruffle the feathers", so to speak, as the flame of God tries to infiltrate your soul.
- ❖ No one thing will result in 'spontaneous combustion'. No favourite book or way of doing devotion, no way to pray (kneeling, sitting, or standing, quiet or shouting), neither running fast nor jumping high, will suddenly create a combustion. "Catching fire" takes time and patience.
- ❖ Once a fire or spark begins, it must be nurtured and tended. We must actively respond to the spark of God by our spiritual practices. Revival does not come by our own willpower. The Holy Spirit is the spark necessary to create a flame. Without the Spirit we become cold. We become like wood soaked in water.

## KEY SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NLT)

- ❖ Once we "catch-a-fire", the Spirit is also the fuel that keeps us 'burning' to the point where we cannot hide the light under a bushel. Once there is a flame, no matter how small, it can be seen far away amid darkness.
- ❖ We don't want a drive-by fire, like fireworks – up one minute, then down to nothing. This isn't about a weekend series of services somewhere. It's an awakening within us where we spend time tending the flame of the Spirit within us. Daily, weekly, monthly, annually.
- ❖ When the fire of God comes, it will purify our ego and selfish desires. It will burn out impurities, sin and shame, and ignite our minds and hearts with the Word of God, so that we can do His will and act in His way.
- ❖ The young, middle aged, seniors, overcomers will not shy away from a prayer meeting or from praying over a meal in public. We won't hide the fact that we are Christians. We won't laugh at jokes or participate in things that threaten our integrity as children of God. When we fan that flame daily, we will "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- ❖ Do you want your soul to be revived? Turn to the word of the Lord. "The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul" (Ps. 19:7).
- ❖ When we are ablaze, we will have a sense of mission to 'be Christ' to the world as we are called to be. When we are ablaze, sinners will see "Christ in us, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). When we are ablaze there is no room for backbiting, gossiping, or complaining.
- ❖ When we are ablaze with revival fire, fear is burnt to ashes, boldness empowers us to rise; it propels us to stand for truth and righteousness.
- ❖ It is God's desire to ignite us into fires that glow and shine brightly to bring Him glory.

## DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Read through the key scripture. How did Ezekiel have to participate in the revival that was depicted? Was there a reason that God involved him? Discuss.
2. Using scripture, discuss how personal "revival" begins and is maintained. (See lesson notes and e.g., Jer. 29:11-13; 33:3; Matt. 5:6; Jn. 6:44; Rev. 3:15.)
3. In practical terms, how do we recognize and/or participate in our own need for personal revival?

## PRAYER TIME

Lord, I thirst for You. Please fill me up and—as only You can do at the same time—set me on fire. Amen.

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022

## NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)    💡 (New idea)    ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this)    ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)    ↔️ (Must share)

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## PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: Have you ever lost something that you despaired of ever finding again? Did you ever find it? Share your stories.