

I. Defining Revival

A. When we use the word “revival” it tends to refer to two specific but slightly different happenings:

1. A recovery of life in the church
2. Mass salvations among the lost.

B. Revival above everything else is the mass glorification of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. – Martyn Lloyd Jones

C. A revival really means days of heaven upon earth – Martyn Lloyd Jones

D. Revival is a community saturated with God - Duncan Campbell

E. Revival is a divine intervention in the normal course of spiritual things. It is God revealing Himself to man in awful holiness and irresistible power. It is such a manifest working of God that human personalities are overshadowed and human programs abandoned. It is man retiring into the background because God has taken over the field. It is the Lord making bare His holy arm and working extraordinary power on saint and sinner’ – Arthur Wallis

F. The need for revival comes because we recognize two key things:

1. There has been regression in the spiritual state of the church.
2. There is far more available in God than we have and are experiencing.

II. Historical Revivals

A. Cane Ridge Kentucky, 1801

B. Welsh Revival, 1904

C. Hebrides Islands, Scotland, 1949

III. Biblical Understanding

A. The closest English word we have for revival in the New Testament is “refreshing.” The Greek word for “refreshing” is “anapsuxis” which means a recovery of breath.

Act 3:19 - 20 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,

1. It’s critical to understand that there are “times” of refreshing that God has ordained for the church to experience.

2. Each of these appointed times points to the worldwide outpouring of the Holy Spirit that will happen just prior to the Day of the Lord.

Act 2:17-21 'AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAYS GOD, THAT I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH; YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS... 19 I WILL SHOW WONDERS IN HEAVEN ABOVE AND SIGNS IN THE EARTH BENEATH: BLOOD AND FIRE AND VAPOR OF SMOKE...BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND AWESOME DAY OF THE LORD. 21 AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS THAT WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.'

B. There is a sovereign element to every outpouring of the Holy Spirit, in other words there is no revival unless God chooses it.

C. At the same time a people can make themselves ready for God's choosing by giving themselves to several key pursuits:

1. Spiritual Hunger
2. Holiness
3. Humility