

The Process of Revival

1 of 1 | Creating a Habitation for God

SLIDE 1 Introduction

Contrary to popular belief, revival doesn't just happen. God doesn't just get up one morning, have a cup of coffee, and go to a world map and say:

SLIDE 2 *"I think I'll pour out a revival, uh, THERE!"*

No, there is so much more that goes into the process of revival. Many of us are hoping and wishing for a sovereign move of God to carry us along into revival, but it is just not that way.

Neither do people select a "man of God" and say to him:

SLIDE 3 *"You will bring us into revival. It's all up to you."*

No one person can birth revival. It comes from the travail of many saints seeking God for more in their personal lives. As they come together and seek God, revival arises from their hearts.

Through the Spirit, resurrection power is always available to us. However, we must release it through a yielding to God's direction. We must choose to walk with God, rather than insisting he walk with us. We often pray, "God, be with us," when we ought to pray, "Lord, may I be with you?"

SLIDE 4 Biblical Revival

Throughout the Bible we see instances of revival. Never have I seen God move on a people until the people begin to seek him. It may be from desperation or a enemy attacking their lives, but rarely do I see God act until we respond.

Respond to what?

Respond to what we already know we need to be doing. This is where faith meets application in your life.

1. First you acknowledge you are born again by the Spirit of God. This is repentance and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul reveals this simple process:

SLIDE 5 Acts 20:21 NIV *"I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus."*

2. You then acknowledge the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in you. You begin the process of renewing your mind and your life in accordance with the Word of God.

Here's Romans 12:2 in the New Living Translation (NLT):

SLIDE 6 Romans 12:2 NLT *"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."*

3. This brings you to the age of fruitful reproduction, where you desire to see this life you have been given reproduced in the lives of others.

SLIDE 7 Ephesians 1:18 (NIV) *"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people..."*

4. From this "burden" if you will, comes fervent and effective prayer that drives the hand of God towards revival among God's people. We turn from inward concern for ourselves and our lives to outward concern for those who are perishing without Christ.

When we truly lay our all on the altars, God's sees in us a place to birth new children that will be cared for and brought to maturity, who will *"love not their own lives for the death."*

Sacrifice for others **IS** the hallmark of Christian maturity.

SLIDE 8 The Glory of the Tabernacle

When Moses was building the tabernacle in the wilderness, he had been given a vision in his heart of what God desired. It was not sacrifice, it was not fancy gold walls and elaborate tapestries. No, it was to dwell in the midst of his people. God desired close fellowship, like he had with Moses in the tent that Moses set up outside the

camp, where he and God talked face to face. Simple, effective.

Yet, until the process was complete God could not inhabit the tabernacle with his manifested presence because everything had to be ready for his coming. God does not fall upon us until we are ready to receive him.

This is why so many times you come to God asking for something and you do not get it. You are not ready to receive it. In other words the presence of God would destroy you, not bless you.

When you read the Bible you see God's glory fall on those who are ready and it brings revival. When it falls on those who are not ready, it brings destruction.

SLIDE 9 The Glory of the Temple

Later on King David desired to build a temple for God's glory on top of a mountain where he had seen God's angel of destruction. God permitted this, but said David could not build it because he was "*a man of war.*" Nevertheless David prepared for it and Solomon his son built it.

After years of preparation, years of work, and intense sanctification, the Lord inhabited the temple.

God did not ask for a temple, he asked to dwell with us in his fullness. We must offer him our temples—our bodies.

Revival is simply when God shows up. He **shows up** when we **grow up**. God has said he wanted to dwell among his people, but we must make room for him. We must prepare a place for him. His glory is revealed to those who are ready for it.

SLIDE 10 **Romans 6:13 (NIV)** "*Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and **offer every part of yourself to him** as an instrument of righteousness.*"

Too many of us have only certain areas of our lives which we submit to God's authority. Mostly because we don't want to go to hell or get thrown out of the church.

Still others have such a high view of themselves they are afraid someone will see through their facade and see the hypocrisy that lies beneath. It's so important to them that YOU think highly of them.

We must constantly remember that God sees it all and knows every *"thought and intent of the heart."* (Hebrews 4:12)

SLIDE 11 1st Corinthians 3:16, 17 (NIV) *"¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple."*

How great a shame it is to possess the Holy Spirit within us and not offer the sacrifice of our lives in his temple. May our thoughts, goals, desires, and agendas be offered on the altar of our hearts before the Spirit who lives within us.

SLIDE 12 1st Corinthians 12:27 (NIV) *"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."*

It seems to me that God has already done everything on his part to set us up for revival, so what is lacking must be on our part.

Until he gives us a heart of repentance to acknowledge that fact, we will continue to pray empty prayers of "God move!" Never recognizing that God stands ready to move upon our lives as soon as we move into position to receive what he has for us.

SLIDE 13 *When will we see revival again in our church?*

The short answer is when we are ready to have a habitation for the Lord—a place for him to dwell among us. However, let's look at *The Process of Revival* once again.

SLIDE 14 1. Acknowledge your salvation through repentance and faith in Jesus.

SLIDE 15 1st Corinthians 6:19, 20 NIV *"¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."*

SLIDE 16 2. Acknowledge the present day work of the Holy Spirit and renew your

mind accordingly.

In the **BLUE SHEET** handout for today (*7 Steps to Renew Your Mind*) author Vladimir Savchuk, of Hungry Generation Church in Pasco, Washington, says, *"Many of us think that once our life is transformed, then our mind will be renewed. It is actually the other way around."*

SLIDE 17 3. We must grow up in the things of God. The age of fruitfulness comes through maturity. Until, we grow we will not invest in the lives of others to bring them to salvation.

SLIDE 18 4. Fervent and effective prayer moves the hand of God. If we want revival we must become desperate for it because we understand the value of it for others.

SLIDE 19 Altar Time

We must prepare a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit before revival will come to our church. God is calling us to pray like never before.

This will lead to larger Life Groups, more people at Saturday night prayer, and restarting Sunday nights to dig deeper into the Word of God together.

Do we really want a move of God? Are we willing to prepare, change, and commit? We'll see.

Sometimes when we say we want to witness a revival, it means we want to see it but not be changed by it.

SLIDE 20 2nd Chronicles 7:14 (NIV) *"...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, **THEN I WILL HEAR** from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*