

ARE YOU READY FOR REVIVAL?

Dear Friend:

What is the Biblical definition of revival? Revival means to be spiritually renewed, to live again, to experience God's refreshing through the touch of the Holy Spirit. Individuals, the church, and nations can and have experienced revival. The Bible has accounts of all three. Most revivals that are referred to are national - the nation of Israel, but clearly the city of Ninevah experienced revival. Individuals clearly experienced revival in Acts 2.

One of the largest revivals in the Bible took place under the kingship of Josiah. Can you believe it...Josiah became king when he was 8 years old. The youngest king in the Bible. He was king of Judah from 640 B.C. - 609 B.C. He led Judah in a full revival by the age of 26 (see 2 Chronicles 24). What does it take for real revival to take place?

First, those who seek revival must seek God. Amazing, at the age of 16 Josiah began to earnestly seek God. Revival doesn't just happen, it doesn't just "hit us". Revival doesn't just start with seeking revival; revival starts with seeking God, and we seek God through prayer. Revival begins with seeking God and prayer. Next, revival comes when we repent. By the age of 20 Judah was in full repentance mode. Repentance means: "to do an about face - to turn in the opposite direction". Turn away from running our own life and turn towards God, full face. Another "R": follows repentance and it is reform: change your ways. The sincerity of repentance is in showing actions of reform. The people of Judah were ordered to throw-away their idols and return to monotheism, the worship of the one true God - and they did! Finally, revival is reached when there's a renewing of the Word of God in our life. In Judah's case the Word of God had been neglected for many years. However, the Word of God (which had literally been lost) was found in the Temple of God. Josiah ordered it to be brought out and read in the hearing of all people. When the Word was read people wept and worshipped God in great revival.

Remember this important truth: nations, cities, and churches can be revived but all revivals start in the heart of people. How's your heart?

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Dick Fisher (brain tumor), the family of Betty Mack (death), Brenda Carpenter (heart valve surgery March 12)

Events: Communion Sunday, Congregational Meeting (approximately 11:30-12:30) after the meeting meet a Pastor from Linworth Baptist Church, our potential partners