

Revival

Scripture

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8 NKJV)

Commentary

Revival is the miraculous outpouring of God’s grace. John Sale put it well when he said:

“Men of past revivals would readily agree that the need of revival in our day is very great. From the records of their lives, we know that in such an evil setting they would boldly proclaim the gospel truth, and strongly exhort believers to pray and fast, and to seek God's special grace. But, they would never assert that if people would only properly use the means God has given, they could secure a revival. These leaders, along with numerous other past revival leaders—e.g., Archibald Alexander, Isaac Backus, R.L. Dabney, Samuel Davies, John Flavel, Asahel Nettleton, Daniel Rowlands—were convinced from the Scriptures and their experience that, while obedience to scriptural duties should always mark the church, the measure of present blessing is in the hands of Almighty God who has put "the times and seasons" in His own power (Acts 1:7). Fundamental to a proper understanding of the term revival is that its source is God, and not the results produced by human plans and efforts” —John Sale, *Revival’s Source*.

I know no believer that doesn’t want to see revival. We long to see the Spirit of God sweep across our nation to break the pride of men and baptize them into the kingdom of heaven. However, with all our desire, we are still dependent upon the Spirit of God.

Still, we should make use of the means God had commanded: repentance, prayer, and meditation. These things have always accompanied revivals. How shall we discern whether our zeal is part of a revival? This is only done by seeing an extraordinary increase in the number of individuals touched by God’s Spirit.

As the passage says above, “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes.” However, we don’t have to wait for others to have a personal revival.

God has promised not to despise a broken and contrite heart (Ps 51:17). Therefore, “The LORD [is] near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.” (Psalms 34:18 NKJV)

All revivals start with individuals. If you want to see a revival, ask God to revive you. Cry out until you have no strength left. Continue calling on the Lord until He blesses you.