

A REAL REVIVAL

AND WHAT HINDERS IT

A PUBLICATION BY JOSHUA GOODLING





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A Real Spiritual Revival is when God's people meet God's conditions for God's blessing. They repent of their sins and with their changed hearts and lives, they are drawn closer to God, and they in turn draw others to God.

Charles Finney once said; "A revival is nothing else than a believer's new beginning of obedience to God."

In the Bible, David instructed his son Solomon, "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever." (1 Chronicles 28:9)

And the Word of God tells us; "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chronicles 7:14)

Many people today have lost the meaning of real revival. We drive past church after church that has posted a large sign out front

reading; "Come Join Us For Our Annual Revival!". But the sad truth is, most of these churches have no idea what a true revival is. Pastors tell us to go out and bring in all the unsaved people so we can have a revival, but how can anyone who has never been saved be revived? A revival can only be experienced by Christians. Sure, people will be saved as a RESULT of a real revival, but that is not a revival, it's a beginning of a new relationship with God for those who have never had that relationship.

Years ago God gave a great revival to the Welsh people who got right with God and with one another. People coming into the town where the revival was happening would inquire of a policeman, "Where is the revival?" The policemen would point to their hearts and reply; "Ah, the revival is here!" That is exactly where a revival must start - in the heart. Not until God's children sincerely pray, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me," will we have that TRUE experience of a REAL REVIVAL.

What America needs today is REAL REVIVAL! A time where Christians see the need in their own hearts and lives and decide to do something about it. So, why are we not seeing a real revival today?

What is hindering a real revival?

There are several things that hinder us experiencing a real revival. The first one is the harboring of unconfessed sin in our lives. Psalm 66:18 says; "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." The Bible also says that our iniquities have separated us from God. Too many Christians today are content to live in sin and not be the least bit concerned about it. Many Christians today have become so cold and backslidden, that what the Bible clearly calls sin, they do not consider to be sin. Or they argue against it, and try to rationalize it instead of repenting and forsaking it.

In order to experience a revival today, Christians would have to make some drastic changes in the way they live. Many would have to stop going to places they frequently go to. Many would have to get rid of some close friends or at least stop hanging around them so often. And many would have to stop watching some of their favorite television shows and movies. The sad part is, the majority of Christians today are not willing to do these things. However, until they do, they will NEVER see a revival in their hearts and lives.

1 John 1:5 plainly tells us; "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." Did you get that? NO DARKNESS AT ALL! So, if we want a revival of renewed fellowship with God, we MUST remove the darkness!

The Bible clearly commands us to "come out from among them and be ye separate" But we are content to live in sin and let the world slide past us into hell. The way many Christians live today, it is impossible to distinguish them from the rest of the world.

This leads to a second hindrance to revival. That hindrance is the attitude of selfishness. We live in an I Me Mine society. Everyone, including most Christians, is looking out for good old number one, SELF! "Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." (James 4:3) The "Lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" are destroying more Christians today than anything else. Instead of being concerned about others, we only care about ourselves. We spend all our time worrying about where our next meal is coming from, when our next promotion will be, where we stand in the financial community, etc., instead of surrendering all that to God. God has promised to meet our EVERY need if we only allow Him to and trust Him completely. So, instead

of worrying about self, be concerned about others, and pray about a nation crippling with the disease of sin, and about to fall flat. Pray about lives doomed to spend eternity without Christ. Get your own life right and be a testimony of what a Christian is supposed to be.

Then, a third hindrance to revival, and perhaps the biggest, is PRIDE. Pride in the human heart leads only to total destruction. The main reason we don't have a revival in America is because the majority of Christians who need to get right with God and need to make drastic changes in their lives are too proud to admit it. Remember, pride is what destroyed Lucifer and sent him on the road to destruction and hell.

We hear on the news almost daily now about someone going on a rampage and shooting and killing people, and we think; "How could anyone do that?" But, there is nothing worse than a man who destroys his family, destroys his church, and dooms his community to hell because he is too proud to admit he needs to get right with God. America will die and burn in hell because of Christians who are too proud to be totally surrendered to God, too proud to give up their sins, and too proud to pay the "price" for REVIVAL! If we are ever going to experience real revival, we need to swallow our pride before

it swallows us!

Dr. Vance Havner has aptly described the present generation of Christians this way; "We are a generation of proud fussy little Christians - experts but not examples. We know too much, or we think we do. We have heard all the preachers and read all the books. It is hard these days to be converted and become like little children. We want to be thought philosophers and scholars - brilliant but not childlike. So we miss the secrets God has hidden from the wise and revealed unto babes. How often, even among the saints, does some simple soul learn the deeper things of God and press through to heaven's best while 'the wise and the prudent' utterly miss them."

A fourth hindrance to revival is that of unresolved conflicts between Christians.

In Matthew 5:23 and 24, Jesus Christ stresses the importance of being right with our fellow believers. One of the big problems in Christian circles today are the divisions and fighting among them. We need to be fighting Satan and Sin! Not be fighting people. Our battle is against the demons and the workers of iniquity, not against other Christians. The Bible says; "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath." Yet

Christians have allowed many a sun to go down, and they are still fighting and feuding with other Christians. More churches have been split, and more lives have been ruined because Christians got mad at each other than by anything else. Now, if another Christian acts in ways contrary to the Word of God, we SHOULD separate with them and not fellowship with them until they get right, but we are not to be fighting with them and allow our flesh to become a stumbling block between them and us. The Bible clearly explains how to resolve conflicts with fellow believers, and the reason there are so many problems in churches and among Christians today is plainly unresolved conflicts. We as Christians can never be right with God until we are also right with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We expect God to forgive us of our sins and wrong doings, but we absolutely refuse to forgive others. He who cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which he himself must one day pass. If we cannot forgive and forget, we will not be forgiven by God. "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." (Mark 11:25, 26) In order for America to have a revival, there is going to have to be a lot of forgiving and forgetting.

Another sad hindrance to revival is the lack of compassion most Christians today are plagued with. To be brutally honest, many Christians today don't care if America dies, or at least they don't act like they care. This is why the average Christian has never won a single soul to Jesus Christ. People all around us need God!

When the person who works next to you tells you someone in their family has died or is sick, you say; "Sorry to hear that!" instead of taking the time to share with them how they might be prepared to spend eternity in heaven. Not only do Christians not have compassion for the lost, they also do not have compassion for fellow Christians who need a revival in their lives as well. If we do not care that Christians need a revival, how can we ever have a revival in our own lives? We cannot help to heal the wounds that we cannot feel! How can we ever help if we don't even notice that others are hurting? It is not a chore for us to love the whole world, the only "chore" is for us to love our neighbor. We boast and say we are concerned about the lost, but we never get concerned about those we work with, those we live near, and those we come in contact with each and every day. Jesus commanded us to start first at Jerusalem – or where we live, then to go to the rest of the world. How can we ever have a revival if we don't care?

These hindrances are most of what is keeping many Christians from having a REAL REVIVAL. Unless we get to work in our individual lives and remove the hindrances, America will not see a revival.

We need to be like David when he prayed, “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psalm 139:23-24) But, we also must be willing to change whatever He points out in our lives. You see, a lot of times we get convicted about something, but we are too stubborn to rid our lives of the junk and garbage that is preventing God from having complete control of EVERYTHING! A revival changes hearts and impacts lives! So, what are we waiting for? Let God change our heart no matter what it costs us, and let’s see what ONLY He can do with a heart and life that is COMPLETELY given to Him!

Jeremiah 29:13 tells us, “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” It’s either ALL or NOTHING!

Ever since Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the garden of Eden, man has constantly found himself rejecting God and seeking after that

which will never satisfy. We find the nation of Israel in that situation multiple times in the Old Testament. God told Jeremiah to write about that in the book of Jeremiah, because the nation of Israel had rejected Him.

“Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.” (Jeremiah 2:12,13) The same is true in today’s churches - we have rejected God and seek after entertainment, pleasures, and prosperity. And God says we need to RETURN to HIM! We need a REAL REVIVAL where Christians get right with God, and TRULY get to KNOW Him!

You see - a Real Revival is when God’s people (Christians) begin to seek God, obey God, and completely trust God - no matter what the cost. And as a result of that - lives are forever changed! We often have little problem with the seeking God, it’s usually with the OBEYING God where our problem lies.

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye doubleminded. “ (James 4:8)

Someone once said “A life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point!” And NOTHING this world offers, even if it claims to be “Christian” is worth more than TRULY repenting of our sins, and giving our lives COMPLETELY and TOTALLY to God.

That’s why the Bible instructs us in Hebrews 1, “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

A REAL REVIVAL IS
When God’s People Begin to
Seek God, Obey God, and Trust God
No Matter What the Cost!

“HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW MUCH PRAYING FOR REVIVAL HAS BEEN GOING ON OF LATE – AND HOW LITTLE REVIVAL HAS RESULTED? I BELIEVE THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO SUBSTITUTE PRAYING FOR OBEYING, AND IT SIMPLY WILL NOT WORK.”

- A W Tozer

ABOUT JOSHUA

Joshua Goodling is a terminal cancer survivor, speaker, and author. At the age of four, He was diagnosed with cancer, and given just one week to live. The doctors said his chances were zero! That was over 50 years ago, so it's been a LONG week! Joshua's life is a testimony of how truly amazing and powerful God is, and how He has a perfect plan for each of our lives. All we must do is have faith in Him, love Him, trust Him, and obey Him!

If you have any comments or questions about truly knowing and experiencing God, visit Joshua's website or contact him.

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