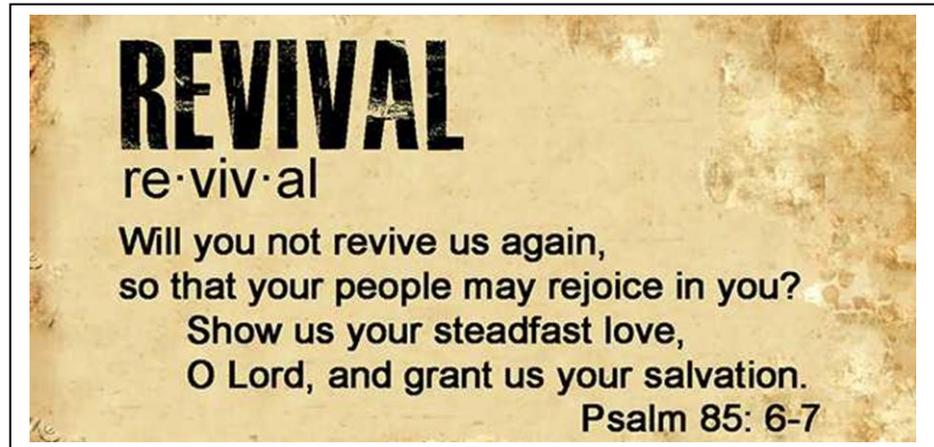


Reunion, Return, Re-gather, and Reconnect-
Come home to PCBC!

'The Prayer 20/20 Impact'

June 28th,
2020



Dear Praying Friends, and Partners In Prayer Team, and whole Church Family,

"For we live by faith, not by sight."

2 Corinthians 5:7-9 (NIV)

"Restore us, O God;

make your face shine on us,

that we may be saved." Psalm 80:3, 7, 19 (NIV)

"Will You not revive us again,

That Your people may rejoice in You?

Show us Your mercy, LORD,

And grant us Your salvation." Psalm 85:6-7 (NKJV)

Who doesn't want revival? One of the things that my mom had said when the whole shut-down of Covid-19 took place has still rung in my ears and stayed with me. She said, "What if God is trying to start a revival?" I can't help but pray that is what God is really doing. Is God trying to revive this country, our churches, our families and neighbors? And when I speak of revival, I don't mean that people just "act nicely" but I'm talking a real heart-rending, about-face, turn toward God!

We are already a quarter of the way through 2020, and I'm amazed at how our God continues to show Himself powerful on our behalf. He never ceases to amaze us with His goodness and mercy. The giving through this year has been better than it has ever been. The following of people outside our church has been piqued as they have been listening and tuning into our YouTube worship and messages, along with many of the area churches. What do you think God can do? Thank you to all of you that have been praying for God to move in mighty ways; not just along our 611 corridor but around the globe. Now that

the Marks family has returned for Keith's wedding, we need to be praying that on July 1st the borders of Thailand will open so they can return. We trust and believe our God can move mountains, open doors, and radically change hearts! Thank you so much to all of you who are praying! But God's determined the work to be completed. As we return to the presence of the Lord, we've been studying the Psalms and crying out the message of: "Reunion- now is the time to come back; Return- now is the time to get our hearts ready for Christ's coming; and Re-gather, now is the time to keep watching for the Lord." We have been learning all month the benefits of why it is so



important to be face-to-face personally worshipping the Lord because "God inhabits the praise of His people" and "where two or three are gathered, there I am in your midst." As I've been praying, I happened upon a Psalm of revival that I want to share with you, apart from my message this week about "going Home to heaven because we are homesick for the presence of the Lord (Psalm 84). (But what I am going to share now is an exclusive teaching from Psalm 85 which this *Partner in Prayer* will give those who want some inside information not found in the sermon today). If we are praying revival, how do we get there? Here are seven steps to revival taken from Psalm 85.

In verse 6 of this wonderful psalm, the psalmist prays for revival. Multitudes today are praying a similar prayer, and in this study we shall discover some of the things that God says about revival. Some of us have seen revivals on a very small scale, where in crowded meetings many souls have been saved, lives have been transformed and there has been a deep spirit of prayer resting upon the people of God; but few of us have seen any large-scale revivals. We have read sufficiently about such mighty movements of the Spirit of God to make us long for the Lord to do it again! But – what is revival? Revival is renewal, restoration – a fresh inflow of the life, love and power of God. People faint and then, when help is brought, they revive. Flowers droop, and when placed in fresh water they revive. Christians and churches also droop, faint and need reviving. There are degrees of revival. A sick person may revive and get a little better, and then later be restored to full health and strength. The same is true with Christians and churches.

As we study this psalm let us pray that we may become deeply burdened for God to send a full-scale Holy Ghost revival in our land, and indeed throughout the world. What are the steps that lead to such a revival? I borrowed my ideas

from an old Bible study I did in college with Word of Life Ministries.

1. We must confess our NEED of Revival. I love the old illustration that D. L. Moody once said: “When praying for revival, take a piece of chalk, draw a circle, kneel down in it, and pray for revival for the person in that circle!” Of course that would be us, right?! In Psalm 85 the psalmist is praying as the main thought: “Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease. Will You be angry with us forever? (verse 4-5).”

The psalmist’s prayer was a confession of need; it was only when he felt the need that he prayed – verse 6. Think of the need for revival:

- In the outside world: multitudes are without God and without hope in the world (Ephesians 2:12); most of them are outside the churches, and revival is the only key to this tragic situation. This includes our neighbors and our close friends living right beside us. There is such a need, Do you feel it?
- In the church: many churches are worldly, formal and lacking in spiritual power and vitality. Only revival can alter this state of affairs. As I pray weekly with my New Jersey pastor friends, they constantly say, “We love our flocks, but I just want to see something happen so that we grow!” Think of all the Bible preaching churches around us, why are they here? Not to compete, or make us church hoppers when we get mad at people, but they are here so we can find the right family fit to learn to share our faith and grow as disciples and equipped followers of Christ. Are we as churches turning out capable maturing believers? Is it our passion and cause to see our church do this? If we are more concerned about the comforts, the music, or the length of the messages, are we actually seeking Holy Spirit power to be released from our churches?
- In our own lives: how powerless we are! How frequently we fail, our testimony seems ineffective, and how little we pray! Revival is our personal need.

There will never be any revival until we are willing to admit our desperate need for it! We must, as the Psalmist did, begin to approach God in His Mighty power and understand our need for revival in order to see it come.

2. We must admit the POSSIBILITY of Revival. Sometimes I believe people want a revival, but they are not actually expecting anything to happen. Are we convinced that revival is possible? The psalmist was! Six times in verses 1-3 he reminded God of what He had done. Count and underline the verbs as you read: Lord, You have been **favorable** to Your land;
“You have **brought back** the captivity of Jacob.
2 You have **forgiven** the iniquity of Your people;
You have **covered** all their sin. Selah
3 You have **taken away** all Your wrath;

You have **turned** from the fierceness of Your anger.”

So when in verse four he prayed, “Restore us, O God of our salvation,” the psalmist was convinced that revival was possible. And the fact that God has sent revival in the past demonstrates the possibility of revival coming again. Some people will not admit the possibility of revival coming in our day; for example, the ultra-judgmental, and all pessimistic, unbelieving, self-satisfied, worldly Christians will be slow to admit the possibility. But history, plus the promises of God, proves the possibility of revival. Look up 2 Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 33:3; Malachi 3:10. If God will honor His Word, then we can believe it is possible! Do you believe?



3. We must recognize the SOURCE of Revival.

Where does revival come from? Verse 6 tells us. “You, Oh God! ...” – Look up Psalm 62:11, “Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.” It comes from God; it is not worked up but sent down, and therefore our eyes must not be upon men, methods, churches or denominations – - but upon Him. Are we praying with eyes upwards? Stephen Oldford once defined revival as, “Revival is an invasion from heaven that brings a conscious awareness of God.” Rober Coleman also gave this definition, “Revival is that sovereign work of God in which He visits His own people, restoring and releasing them into the fullness of His blessing.”

Billy Graham said, “When we look to man, we get what man can do; when we look to money, we get what money can do; when we look to organization, we get what organization can do; when we look to denominations, we get what denominations can do; but when we look to God, we get what God can do.”

4. We must employ the MEANS for securing Revival.

What is the secret of revival? It is prayer – “Will you not.....?” (verse 6) – - passionate, believing, urgent prayer. Has there ever been a revival that was not preceded by prayer? – Pentecost, the Moravian Revival, the 1859 Revival, the Welsh Revival, movements of the Spirit that are taking place in different parts of the world today. Look up 2 Chronicles 7:14 again, “When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, 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 will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place” (vs. 13-15). Have we ever seen revival without prayer? Never, that is why we need to pray more than ever. I’ve kept saying the power of prayer is the greatest secret weapon and force we can have during the Covid-19 pandemic.

It may seem useless to the “world’s eyes” but it is the power force. Andrew Murray said, “Most churches think their members are gathered into one simply to take care of and build up each other. They know not that God rules the world by the prayers of His saints; that prayer is the power by which Satan is conquered; that by prayer the Church on earth has supposal of the powers of the heavenly world.” (Andrew Murray, *‘With Christ in the School of Prayer’*.)

5. We must provide the CHANNELS for Revival.

God is wanting to send revival, but He needs channels. Who? It’s “us”-believers, not just unsaved and wicked people. “Restore us, O God of our salvation,” (Ps. 85:5). John Wesley said, “Revival is the outflow of the Spirit of God through the regenerated spirit of man” (John 7:38-39). Thus, if revival is to come, you and I are to be ready to receive the full blessing of God and to be channels through whom that blessing can flow. It must flow through us believers before anyone who is without the Lord can catch it! Now doesn’t that add a new perspective? We often think we just stay cooped up in our fancy little prayer towers and never touch the lives around us who need revival, as if God will just send a “lightning storm over” our unsaved neighbors and somehow by themselves they will come to revival. No, God wants to use us!

6. We must remove the OBSTACLES to Revival.

In verse 6 the psalmist prays for revival- “that your people may rejoice in you.” This indicates fellowship, walking with God, agreement with God (Amos 3:3) – being right with God. The greatest barrier to revival is sin. Are you right with God? Is there sin in your life? Are you living in disobedience to the Lord? Face up to this! Am I keeping revival from my own family? Many years ago D. L. Moody heard Henry Varley say, “The world has yet to see what God will do with one man who is fully surrendered to Him.” Moody said, “By God’s grace, I’ll be that man!” Will you be another? Will you begin now to pray the same prayer for your church, that the world may see what God can do? One time a lady asked Billy Sunday, “Why do you keep having revivals when it doesn’t last?” He asked her, “Why do you keep taking baths?” We need revival, amen?

7. We shall enjoy the RESULTS of Revival.

Read the rest of the psalm, and notice several results which are mentioned:



salvation (vs. 7); peace (vs. 8); glory (vs. 9); harmony (vs. 10); increase (vs. 11); and provision (vs. 12). The psalmist describes it as a harvest of souls that will yield. Is it always good to grow your own food in your garden? Some believe there is just nothing like the taste of our homegrown peas, potatoes, and tomatoes. When we lovingly put effort into the prayer of those around us, it is like a harvest

of the best from our garden. Are you looking for and anticipating those results? One year in the beginning of my first ministry and during the first five

years of our marriage, Lori asked me to grow strawberries. I planted some “June” berries next to the house, and guarded and tended the plants like I was keeping Fort Knox. I had chicken wire around the plants to keep the rascally rabbits away and every other possible predator. So as I was getting closer to June, I noticed a great huge strawberry forming and ripening. I was so excited that I would present this perfect “berry” to my wife! I was growing it for her. Every day, I would check it, to see if it was closer to ripening. Each day it would turn redder, and the berry would plump closer to perfection. So, the day came when I thought, “I will go out and get this strawberry and present it to Lori for breakfast.” I went out, and was horrified because the berry was missing! “What the...!” I couldn’t believe it! That rabbit that I had been chasing away and guarding against somehow got that berry. I walked into the house and shouted to Lori, “I can’t believe it! I don’t understand! That rabbit must have gotten your strawberry! I’ve been waiting for the perfect moment to give it to you, and it’s gone!!” I looked over at Lori and she sat holding her mouth. She said, “You were keeping an eye on that berry for me? When a bunny named Lori got it before you.” She had been watching that berry, and got it before I did. I couldn’t be mad any longer, because my objective was met. It just didn’t go as I imagined it would. So, what would you imagine God could do for us at PCBC? Would He bring more families with children? Would He work in some of the hearts of your loved ones that we’ve prayed for years to come to Christ? Can He move mountains?

Pray with me,

“Oh, God from whom all blessings flow, please revive us! We have sinned times without number just this week and have repeatedly been guilty of searching for blessings in this world apart from You. We have read Your description of our sinful human condition, and we are sure it is true. O God, we are in distress and greatly bowed down when we see the condition to which we and all our race have fallen. We are often trying to seek the pleasures and riches of the tents of the ungodly around us- (Psalm 84:10 “better is one day in Your courts than dwell in the tents of the wicked”). O God, our hearts are wild and unruly, and we confess the perversity that governs our souls day after day. Father, how can we thank You for Your perfect Son? He gave up all the blessings of heaven to become sin for us, choosing to be cursed so that we would be richly blessed forever. Yet, our old sin that remains in us until we are glorified in Christ is capable of reaching high degrees of infamy. Help us, and restore us, O, Lord! Holy Spirit, we need You to revive these wicked hearts of ours! We need You to reconnect us to Your presence and the matchless love of Christ. We are homesick for our hope of heaven and being with You. May we sing daily, “this world is not our home we are just passing through!” May that truth from Your Word captivate our hearts and delight us afresh as we find ourselves constantly in need of Your presence. Cause us to move toward godly and wise counselors and friends. May we bear the fruit of joy and growing obedience as we

meditate on the riches of Your blessings to us in Christ, in whom fearful sinners are dearly loved and crowned with a glory that they could never earn. Oh, that Christ would come! Oh, that His Word would be made known to the ends of the earth! Oh, that Your kingdom would come, and Your will would be done. Remember and bless all the work of the churches in our area. Let your kingdom come into the hearts of multitudes through the churches of Bucks County. Glory be unto You our God! We ask this in our sweet Jesus' Name, Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!"

***Praying for revival with chalk circles around me,
Pastor Corvin <><***

*Lyrics to a song called: "Thinking about home!"
"A penny for your thoughts, I said to the old man
As he sat there on the park bench, all alone
With silver hair, and wrinkled brow, eyes gleamin'
He smiled and said, "Just thinkin' 'bout my home"*

*I sat down and we shared some laughs together
And the cinema of remembrance, it did roam
We talked about life's gains and its losses
But mostly, he just talked about his home...*

*He said, "I'm thinkin' 'bout home"
Thinkin' 'bout going home
Dreamin' 'bout leavin' here, ready to be
movin' on
It won't be long before the sun goes down and
I'll be gone
But until then, I'll be thinkin' 'bout home*

*I said, "Tell me old man, where's your home and
What's it like?
He said, "Oh, ain't nothin' 'round here that compares
You see, a King had it built and gave the deed to me
And all my family's already there..."*

*Chorus: "I'm thinkin' 'bout home...
Thinkin' 'bout going home...
I've been Dreamin' 'bout leavin' here, ready to be movin' on!
It won't be long before the sun goes down and I'll be gone,
But until then, I'll be thinkin' 'bout home."
Song Lyrics by Debba Talley.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfoL4HbPsVM>



Hymn "Revive us again!"

"We praise Thee, O God!
For the Son of Thy love,
For Jesus Who died,
And is now gone above.

Refrain

Hallelujah! Thine the glory.
Hallelujah! Amen.
Hallelujah! Thine the glory.
Revive us again.

All glory and praise
To the Lamb that was slain,
Who hath borne all our sins,
And hath cleansed every stain.

Refrain

Revive us again;
Fill each heart with Thy love;
May each soul be rekindled
With fire from above."

Refrain