Revive Us Again

Intro: Psa. 85:6 “Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?” For brevity of words, depth of meaning and beauty of content this passage stands without peer in presenting a short summary of the great need of God’s people and its results. I am not opposed, as some, to the use of the word revival.

1. Psa. 138:7 “Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.”

2. Isa. 57:15 “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

3. Hab. 3:2 “O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.”

I. REVIVAL.

A. It means:
   1. To restore to consciousness of life; to recover vigor or strength; to reanimate; to become active, operative or flourishing again.
   2. To raise from sluggishness, to recover from a state of neglect or disuse.
   3. To reestablish, refresh strengthen.

B. A revival along Biblical lines is the superlative need of this century.
   1. We are living in an age of mental confusion with regards to spiritual matters. The very foundations are being denied.
      a. The Bible’s credibility, accuracy, truthfulness, inspiration, etc., is being attacked.
      b. These attacks, today, are coming from within our own ranks.
      c. Nothing but the genuine can stand the test, survive the attack.
   2. There is a mania today for intellectualism.
      a. 1 Cor. 1:21, 19 “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.... 19For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”
      b. 2 Cor. 11:3 “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”
   3. The intense pursuit of pleasure.
      a. We are a pleasure mad people.
      b. 2 Tim. 3:1, 4 “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.... “Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;”
      c. Phi. 3:18-19 “(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)”
   4. The desire for wealth and status in the business world.
      a. Materialism.
b. Luke 8:14 “And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.”

c. 1 Tim. 6:9-10 “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

d. Mat. 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

5. The public demand for sermonettes, essays, current events, social talks instead of plain Gospel sermons.

a. We have become like Israel of old.

(1) Isa. 30:10 “Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits;”

(2) Jer. 6:14 “They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.”

(3) Mic. 3:5 “Thus saith the Lord concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him.”

b. 2 Tim. 4:1-4 “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

c. Jude 3 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

d. Acts 20:20, 26-27 “And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,... Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

C. There is joy in revival.

1. Nothing is so much fitted to make people happy.

2. Acts 8:8 “And there was great joy in that city.”

3. Phi. 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”

4. 1 Pet. 1:8 “Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:”

5. 1 The. 5:16 “Rejoice evermore.”

II. NEEDS FOR REVIVAL.

A. Reading and studying the scriptures.

1. We do not read and study the Bible as we should.
2. The love we should have for the Bible.
   a. Psa. 119:97, 103 “O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.... 103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”
   b. Jer. 15:16 “Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.”
3. The direction and salvation it brings.
   a. Psa. 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”
   b. Psa. 119:11, 130 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.... 130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”
   c. Hos. 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”
4. 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

B. Preaching Christ not opinions.
1. Acts 8:5 “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.”
   a. Preaching Christ is preaching the Word of God.
      (1) Acts 8:4 “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”
      (2) 2 Tim. 4:2 “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”
   b. Preaching Christ also involves preaching the church and baptism; Acts 8:12 “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”
2. Acts 8:35-36 “Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. 36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?”
3. Acts 9:20 “And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.”
4. We must speak what the Lord says:
   a. 1 Kings 22:14 “And Micaiah said, As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak.”
   b. Jonah 3:2 “Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.”
   c. What is it that we have to offer by our own knowledge.
      (1) Pro. 14:12 “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”
      (2) Jer. 10:23 “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”
      (3) 1 Cor. 1:19-20 “For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?”
C. Of the joys of salvation.
   1. 1 Thess. 5:16 “Rejoice evermore.”
   2. Phil. 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”
   3. We have the remission of sins and the hope of eternal salvation
      a. Acts 8:39 “And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord
         caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way
         rejoicing.”
      b. Acts 16:34 “And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before
         them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.”
      c. Rom. 12:12 “Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;”
      d. 1 Peter 1:5-6 “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready
         to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season,
         if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations;”

D. Pure Living.
   1. We are to be pure.
      a. Mat. 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”
      b. 1 John 3:3 “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as
         he is pure.”
   2. This takes purity of thought.
      a. Phil. 4:4 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are
         honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things
         are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be
         any praise, think on these things.”
      b. Rom. 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye
         present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your
         reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the
         renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and
         perfect, will of God.”
   3. Then we can be pure in life.
      a. 1 Tim. 4:12 “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers,
         in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
      b. 1 Tim. 5:22 “Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men’s
         sins: keep thyself pure.”
   4. This takes separation from the things of this world.
      a. 1 Peter 1:14 “As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former
         lusts in your ignorance;”
      b. Jam. 1:27 “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit
         the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the
         world.”
      c. Gal. 5:24 “And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and
         lusts.”
      d. 1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any
         man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world,
         the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father,
         but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth
         the will of God abideth for ever.”
5. We are far to worldly today and need a revival in purity.

**E. Obedience.**

1. To God.
   a. Jam. 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
   b. 1 Pet. 5:6 “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”
   c. This includes obedience to Christ.
      (1) Mat. 28:18 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”
      (2) John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”
      (3) Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”
   d. To obey God and Christ we must obey the Bible.
      (1) The Bible contains the words (will, law, commands) of God.
      (2) Rom. 2:16 “In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”
      (3) Rom. 6:17 “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”
      (4) Jam. 1:22-25 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”
      (5) Rev. 20:12 “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

2. To elders.
   a. Heb. 13:17 “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”
   b. 1 The. 5:12-13 “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”

3. To government.
   a. Rom. 13:1-6 “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Therefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God’s ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.”
b. Tit. 3:1 “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,”

c. 1 Pet. 2:13-14, 17 “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.... 17Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.”

4. To parents.
   a. Eph. 6:1-3 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 39That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”
   b. Col. 3:20 “Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.”

F. Prayer.
   1. How many of us can truthfully say we pray as we should?
      a. We might pray before meals and at bedtime, but what about other times?
      b. Is our life a life of prayer?
   2. The great need for prayer.
      a. Mat. 7:7-8 “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”
      b. Rom. 12:12 “Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;”
      c. 1 The. 5:17-18 “Pray without ceasing. 18In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”
      d. Phi. 4:6 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”
   3. Christ should be our example in prayer as in everything.
      a. One example of many in the life of Christ; Luke 5:16 “And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.”
      b. In connection with his baptism; Luke 3:21 “Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,”
      c. In choosing his apostles; Luke 6 12-13 “And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. 13And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;”
      d. In connection with His death
         (1) John 12:23-28 “And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. 24Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. 25He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. 26If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour. 27Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. 28Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.”
(2) John 17
(3) Mat. 26:39-44 “And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. 40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. 42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. 43 And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. 44 And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.”

G. Anxiety over the lost.
1. Christ gave us a great commission to preach the gospel to the whole world.
   a. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
   b. Mark 16:15 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
   c. Luke 24:47 “And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
2. We should be concerned over those who are lost.
   a. We should realize what they miss.
      (1) All spiritual blessings; Eph. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”
      (2) The abundant life; John 10:10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”
      (3) Eternal life; 1 Pet. 1:4 “To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,”
   b. We should realize what they will receive.
      (1) Eternal punishment
         (2) 2 The. 1:8-9 “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”
3. Psa. 119:136 “Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.”
4. We should be about our Father’s business in seeking and saving the lost; Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

H. Love one for another.
1. Christ gave us the command to love each other.
   a. John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”
   b. John 15:12 “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.”
2. We are to love as Christ loved us—he gave himself for us.
   a. Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
   b. He gave to the point of dying for us; 1 John 3:16 “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”
   c. We should be willing to give our lives for our brethren.

3. We need a revival in love for the brethren that will exclude backbiting, gossip, etc.; Gal. 5:15 “But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.”

Conclusion: Rev. 2:4-5 “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”