

REVIVAL

1. Introduction

Revival is on the hearts of many. Theme of Shetland Bible Week. The key is prayer, but that must be linked with practical preparation. “Consecrate yourselves ... ([Joshua 3 v.5](#)). We take a little step – God takes a mighty step. Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead ([James 2 v.17](#))

2. What is Revival

The community impacted by the Kingdom of God. God does not send revival, He comes Himself. How? Through His people. Our meeting together is vital, but not enough on its own – we need to be released to minister into the community. The meeting place is the training place for the market place.

3. What is Required of us?

Assuming that we are already praying – what else is required? Prayer without preparation is foolishness and insulting to God. Our attitude to revival should be as practical as for an expected baby. We prepare for the great event – baby showers etc. Here are some other ideas.

4. Change of Mindset Required

Change our stereotyped mindset of a church having professional leadership working with ill-equipped amateurs to that of realizing that we are all leaders. ‘But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood...’ ([1 Peter 2 v. 9](#)). On the day of Pentecost 120 were called to look after 3,000 – each one with a cell group of 25! Kensington Temple has 17,000 in cell groups, and trained up 700 leaders last year. [Isaiah 61 v. 4, 6](#) ‘They will rebuild the ancient ruins ... and you will be called priests of the Lord and you will be named ministers of our God. Priesthood of all believers.

5. Think Ahead

Say 100 new Christians arrived next week, how would they be nurtured and taught? Wouldn't all of us be called into some degree of leadership in caring for others? The 3 house groups would each have another 33 at your next meeting. Unless we take practical step to cater for increase, how can we expect God to come in revival? He is not irresponsible, and he will hold back if the resulting babes in Christ are going to be left to die of malnutrition. We have enough backsliders already. Do **NOT** limit revival.

6. A New Vision for Church

We need to see ourselves as God sees us, and know that where we are at is good, but He is calling us to even better. The iceberg church, where what happens on our Sunday gathering is the celebration of what is happening in the community – 1/8th compared to 7/8th. As mature Christians we are being released into the community as a massive Kingdom interface for change. We are not perpetual students covering the same ground over and over again, but we are receiving and giving solid food. In to feed – out to minister. Secular work is full-time service. **Enjoy!** Each one of has contact with twenty per week.

7. Changes are Needed

First we recognise governmental leadership in the church – apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists who are gifts to the Body of Christ. **But** their job is to do themselves out of a job by training and releasing others into their ministry. Everyone gets promoted (give and it shall be given to you). But more important more and more leaders are trained and released to look after the new converts.

8. House Groups/Cell Groups

Early church met together in the temple courts and also in one another's homes where they devoted themselves to the apostles doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer – and the Lord added daily ;to their number. These are a Godly, scriptural means of nurturing, teaching, praying, building of relationships and evangelism. In my view they are essential to a healthy church – **not** an optional extra. The Lord sets the lonely into families (**Psalm 68 v.6**)

9. Nehemiah

Whether we are going into battle (Joshua) or building the walls (Nehemiah) organisation and structure is important. **Nehemiah 3. v.12** – organisation. **Nehemiah 4. v.19** – communications. **Isaiah 61 v.3 – 6** Priests of the Lord. No one generally helping – all committed to teams. Football? You wouldn't know who the Captain was without an armband. Deputy Leaders.

10. First the Body then the Mission

Imagine moving into a battle before the army is organised or a firm taking on a contract before it is ready to deliver. It is good to have a ;vision as long as we are taking definite steps to prepare ourselves to achieve the aim. Nehemiah is a good example.

11. Individual Motivation

None of what I have already covered can happen without personal motivation. That is between me and the Lord. Parable of the talents. **Rev. 3 v.11,12** “Hold on to what you have, so that bno-one will take your crown. Him who overcomes, I will make pillar in the temple of my God. **Romans 8 v.28** You are a Christian leader in whatever sphere God has put you – workplace, office, community, school, etc. You are in full-time Christian Service. Neil/Linda/James – Sound Service Station.

12. How do I Get Motivated?

We need the encouragement of others – house groups etc. - ? Let your agenda centre around Jesus rather than fitting in Him around your agenda. In readiness for revival deliberately build in “open time” in your schedule and use it to seek the Lord. Most Christians are at full stretch and revival has not even begun! **Jeremiah 12. v.5** ‘If you have raced with men on foot ...’

Question: If you had been Ananias, could you have responded?

13. Make Me Willing to be Willing!

Be honest, if we are not motivated – ask the Lord to blow on the embers. Drink of the Spirit – not like tea or coffee, you have no idea what effect He will have on you, but it will be good! He will take you into exciting new areas of motivation/boldness. **Psalm 40 v.3** He put a new song in my mouth.

14. Don't Underestimate Your Ministry

God has a special role for you. **Philippians 3: 12, 13** ‘Forgetting what is behind and pressing on to what is ahead to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Acts 9 v.19 – 21 Paul was blind for 3 days – Ananias lays hands on him. He spends several days with the disciples in Damascus and at once began to preach in the synagogue that Jesus is the Son of God. Get out of the perpetual student syndrome. You are a leader!

15. Don't Underestimate the Importance of Shetland

Throughout history we see the seemingly small things in God changing the seemingly large thing. Bethlehem – Jerusalem – ends of the earth. **Daniel 2 v. 29 – 35** – the enormous statue struck on its clay/iron feet by a rock divinely cut out. Handing out leaflets in Gulberwick.

16. Summary

Revival – Prayer – Preparation – Change of Mindset – Cell groups that multiply – Nehemiah organisation – 1st the Body then the Mission – individual motivation - Don't underestimate your ministry – Don't underestimate the importance of Shetland.

17. Response ...