

*Revival*  
*Devotionals*

## Sunday, February 5 What is Revival?

**What is Revival?** As our church prepares for our upcoming meeting with Dr. Jimmy Milikin, March 12-15, we are seeking God for revival. We hear the term “revival” a lot but what does it mean? When we pray for revival what are we asking for? How does the Word of God define revival? Here are the words translated “*revive*” or “*awaken*” in God’s Word:

**Old Testament:** (*Psalm 85:6*) “*Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?*” The Hebrew word translated “*revive*” is **châyâh** (*khaw-yaw'*) and means that God causes something to live or to come alive. It means therefore to “give life.” It also means to recover, repair, restore, or make whole. Notice that revival is for “*thy people*” - God’s people...saved people. For whatever reason (sin, neglect, disobedience) saved people often need to be “*revived*” – they need to be repaired, restored, made whole, and given life in the Spirit again! Here are a couple of other places where **châyâh**, “*revive*” is used - Isaiah 57:15-18, Psalms 138:7-8

**New Testament:** *John 5:21* “*for as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.*” **zōopoieō** (*dzo-op-oy-eh'-o*) means to revive, revitalize...to make alive...give life...quicken.

**Romans 14:9** “*For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.*” **anazaō** (*an-ad-zah'-o*) means to recover life, to live again or to revive to life.

**Ephesians 2:5** “*Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickeneth us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)* **suzōopoieō** (*sood-zo-op-oy-eh'-o*) – means to revive or to make alive together with another. To get life by virtue of another.

So we learn that “*revival*” means that God causes us to come alive to Him again and in doing so He restores us, heals us, repairs us, makes us whole, revitalizes us, and causes us to recover!

As you think about your life as a Christian, prayerfully answer these questions:

- Is your walk with Jesus alive, vibrant, healthy, living, passionate?
- Has sin, neglect, or disobedience drained the life out of your walk with Christ?
- Do you need to be repaired, recovered, restored to Christ today?
- Honestly...do you need revival?

Would you humbly, honestly, sincerely pray Psalm 85:6 right now? “*Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?*” Admit to God right now what He and you already know: your walk with him has become stale, cold, lifeless...and that you desire to be revived so that you might once again “*rejoice*” in Him. Cry out to God right now for revival. Pray for your brothers and sisters at Shelbyville Mills Baptist to be revived as well. Pray for your pastor to be revived too! Pray for the Lord to speak to us all through Dr. Jimmy Milikin!

**Monday, February 6**  
**You Need Revival if...**

Yesterday we learned that the Hebrew word for “revival” is *châyâh* (*khaw-yaw'*). In Psalm 119 this word is translated “quicken” which has the same meaning as “revive.” In this Psalm David prays six times for God to “quicken” or to “revive” him. These six verses reveal our need for revival. These six verses reveal that ***you need revival...***

**1. If you are preoccupied with the world and the flesh:** *"DALETH. My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word."* (Psa 119:25) The phrase “cleave to the dust” is David’s way of saying that the things of this world had a hold on him. He admits that he needs to be “quicken...according to thy word.” If the world and the things of the world are in competition with your love for or obedience to Jesus, then like David the Word of God reveals that you need revival!

**2. If you’re preoccupied with useless things:** *"Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way."* (Psa 119:37) The word “vanity” is that which is useless...of no profit or value to your walk with the Lord. If you are pursuing vain things...things that will not last over pursuing Jesus...then you need revival!

**3. If you’re not walking in righteousness:** *"...quicken me in thy righteousness."* (Psa 119:40) This is a word that means what is “just” or “right” according to God’s Word. It means to be right with God! A man of virtue, justice, and integrity! It speaks of a level of honesty and purity...transparency in your life with God! Hiding nothing...covering no sin...living openly and honestly before Holy God! If this does not describe your life then you need revival!

**4. If you have forgotten that God loves you:** *"Quicken me after thy lovingkindness; so shall I keep the testimony of thy mouth. (Psa 119:88)* God is showing you how much He loves you by revealing that you need to be revived! He desires to repair you, restore you, make you whole...give you life again! Why? Because He loves you! You are His elect (chosen) child and He loves you and desires to restore you back to the joy of living in Him! (Read Nehemiah 8:10)

**5. If affliction and suffering has clouded your view of God:** *"I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word."* (Psa 119:107) Jesus affirmed that we would have affliction in this world, *"In the world ye shall have tribulation."* But notice what He said in that same verse, *"but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33b) Revival is when God supernaturally enables us to look past our afflictions to Jesus and remember that He has “overcome” them all! If you’re focused on your affliction you need revival and God will give it if you look to Christ!

**6. If you have forgotten the grace and mercy of God:** *"Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD: quicken me according to thy judgments."* (Psa 119:156) Pause right now and think on this...our God is *great* in *tender mercies*! Take comfort in this!

- If any of these six things are true of you...then you need revival! Would you stop right now and admit this to God and ask Him to revive you!

**Tuesday, February 7**  
**What it takes to have revival**

**Read Psalm 139 – Focus on verses 23-24.** Though this text does not mention “*revival*” by name, I believe verses 23-24 are the heart attitude we must possess if we are to be revived – restored, repaired, made whole again. From David’s life notice three things that reveal what it takes to have revival:

**1. David’s Courage:** “*search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts*” (139:23) The word “*search*” means to penetrate and examine much like a modern x-ray or MRI. David asks God to *search his heart* and his *thoughts*... to penetrate them and examine them in light of His holiness! This takes courage!

- When David slew the lion that took courage (1 Sam.17:34)
- When David killed the bear that also took courage. (1 Sam.17:36).
- When David faced Goliath of Gath he showed tremendous courage (1 Sam.17).

But never did David show more courage than when he said, “*Here I am Lord, You come and enter any place in my heart...penetrate it, search it...examine every crevice and chamber of my heart and see if you can find anything in me that is sinful, evil, or wrong.*” **Will you be courageous right now and ask God to search you heart and thoughts like this?**

**2. David’s Character:** “*And see if there be any wicked way in me...*” (139:24a) We see David’s character in that he calls his sin what God calls it, “*wicked.*” David lets the Lord know what he wants Him to look for when He searches his heart and mind: “*...any wicked way in me.* The word “*wicked*” - *otseb*, is an interesting word. It means “an idol.” One author said, “*the heart of man is a perpetual idol factory.*” Unchecked, the heart and mind of man will fashion a thousand idols for him to replace God with and bow down to. Is there anything you love or serve more than Jesus? Is there anything you have made an idol of? **Will you have the character to agree with God about it and let Him have it and remove it from your heart?**

**3. David’s Course:** “*and lead me in the way everlasting.*” (139:24b) “*and lead me*” - *nachah*, means to govern, guide, or to straighten. David was praying that God would lead him in the way that was pleasing to God...the will of God! Jesus said,

*“...wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and many go that way. But straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life and few will find it” (Matt.7:13-14)*

Revival is God’s method to restore us, repair us, bring us back to “*the way everlasting.*”

- Have the courage right now to ask God to examine your heart and thoughts!
- Have the character to agree with God about the wickedness of your sin!
- Cry out to the Lord and ask Him to put you back on the right course!

**This is what it takes to have revival!**

**Wednesday, February 8**  
**The Conditions of Revival**

**Read 2 Chronicles 7:14.** This text is regarded as one of the classic texts on revival. It is a call for God's people to turn back to Him from their sin to be "*healed*"...revived! The text contains four "*if*" statements that reveal God's conditions for our revival:

**1. IF** we "*humble ourselves*" - *kana (kaw-nah)* – means to bend the knee before God. To be humiliated and vanquished...literally conquered by God! "*God resists the proud but gives His grace to the humble*" (*James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5*) "*IF*" is huge! It means "are you willing to "*humble yourself in the sight of the Lord?*" (*James 4:10*) Pride, arrogance, and self-sufficiency are the sins that have spawned the coldness, complacency, apathy, and dryness in God's *people*. We will never experience revival until we repent of pride and humble ourselves before our God and agree with Him about our sin! **Will you humble yourself before God?**

**2. IF** we "*pray*" *palal (paw-lal)* – means to earnestly pray. To judge something wrong and to move to change it by interceding before God. No prayer means no power and no revival! There has never been a revival without prayer! Notice that it was after "*Solomon made an end of praying*" (*7:1a*) that the "*fire came down from heaven.*" (*7:1b*). Every revival in the history of the church began with a small group of people becoming desperate before God...judging the state of the church to be sick...and interceding that God would intervene and change it! **Will you right now pray to God in repentance and brokenness and ask Him to revive you / us?**

**3 IF** we "*seek [God's] face*" – *bâqash (baw-kash)* – means to earnestly seek...to make an inquisition! Literally to beg! God's face is the most intimate, personal, and close attribute of His person! His face is "ground-zero" for His glory! His face is His countenance, His eyes which "*are a flame of fire*" (*Rev.19:12*). His face is where all of His vision, intelligence, wisdom, and knowledge dwell. Imagine seeing God "face to face" as Jacob did (*Gen.32:30*) or as Moses did (*Ex.33:11*) or as Gideon did (*Judges 6:22*) or as Ezekiel did (*Ezekiel 20:35*)! These were ordinary men... "*My people*" who were close to "*the face of God.*" This tells me that God wants us to be "up close and personal" with Him! **Will you right now begin to earnestly seek the face of Almighty God? Will you seek to be close to Him and His glory?**

**4. IF** we "*turn from [our] wicked ways*" – *ra'ah* – means what is bad or sinful. It also means what is hurtful to us. God demands that we "*turn*" -*shub (shoob)* away from everything "*wicked.*" The word "*turn*" means to repent...to change our mind about our sin and to agree with God about it and to turn to Him away from it! **Are you willing to turn away from any and every sin the Lord reveals you to be guilty of?**

**If** we *humble ourselves* and **IF** we *pray* and **IF** we *seek God's face* and **IF** we *turn from our wicked ways*... **THEN!** Then and only then may we legitimately seek God for revival! "*then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*" This is revival...to be healed and restored by God!

**Will you humble yourself? Will you pray? Will you seek God's face? Will you turn from your wicked ways?**

**Thursday, February 9**  
**The Valley of Dry Bones**

**Read Ezekiel 37:** In Ezekiel 37, the Prophet is taken by the Lord out to a valley full of the bones of dead Israelites. This place had once been a battlefield where thousands of Israelites fell under the judgment of God at the hands of the Babylonians for their disobedience to the Word of God. Now, years later, this message was given from God to Ezekiel as an encouragement to the captives in Babylon. Like this valley of dry bones, the nation of Israel was dead...but God had plans to revive her.

Ezekiel was commanded to “*prophesy*” ...preach to the *dry bones* and to the *wind* of God’s Spirit to come revive these slain ones (37:4,7,9,10,12) Even though they were dead and just a pile of bones...God was able to revive His people and to restore them. This gives us great hope that no matter how seemingly “*dead*” we may be spiritually...God is able to revive His people!

Notice what happened when Ezekiel prophesied to the *bones* and to the *wind*. How will we know when genuine revival comes? Something that was dead will be made alive! Only God can do this! Only God can revive a dead corpse! Notice several things that revealed a genuine reviving work of God:

- “*a noise*”(7) *kole* – a loud proclamation – you will hear! The first sign of life is hearing! Dry saint, do you hear the Lord speaking to you? Is His Word coming alive in you again?
- “*a shaking*”(7) *ra’ash* – a commotion, an uproar, a quaking! Another sign of life is movement! Is there a shake-up in your heart? A commotion in your spirit? Is the Spirit of God stirring in your heart as you seek Him for revival? Is He shaking your life up right now?
- “*breath came into them and they lived*” (10) This is revival! They lived! They were dead...but now they were alive! The Spirit of God was once again active and present within them! Revival is when spiritual life returns to us! When God overwhelms dryness and deadness with His Living Spirit!
- “*and they stood upon their feet, an exceeding great army*” (10b) In death they possessed no ability to stand! Now, revived and reassembled, they stood like “*an army terrible with banners*” (Song of Solomon 6:4,10)
- “*and ye shall know that I am the Lord*” (6) “*and ye shall know that I am the Lord*” (13) “*ye shall know that I the Lord have spoken it, saith the Lord.*” (14) What is revival? It is being made alive to God! To “*know*” Him *yāda’* to rediscover Him! To be aware of Him! To understand Him! To carefully observe Him!

**Today your pastor is praying for you that there will be “*a noise*” and “*a shaking*” and that the “*breath*” of God’s Spirit will come into you and that you will “*stand*” up for Christ once again and “*know*” Him intimately and passionately. This is revival! Would you pray this right now for yourself?**

**Friday, February 10**  
**The Holiness of God**

**Read Isaiah 6:1-8:** Isaiah helps us to understand what God means when He says “*be ye holy for I am holy*” (Lev.11:44, 1 Peter 1:16) Even though Isaiah was a prophet of God, he needed revival! When Isaiah came into the presence of God’s holiness his sin quickly surfaced and Isaiah discovered his need of revival (6:5)

As Isaiah is brought into the very throne room of God he hears the *seraphims* crying “*holy, holy holy*” (6:3) *qâdôsh* (*kaw-doshe*) it means sacred, pure, uncontaminated. It means the opposite of common-place. It means that God is completely free from all moral imperfections and frailties known to man. God reveals His holiness to us to show us how far short we fall of His glory (Rom.3:23). Isaiah’s response when he encountered the holiness of God needs to be our response if we would have revival:

- “*woe is me! For I am undone*” (6:5) A good translation might be “*O my goodness, I don’t belong here in God’s presence...I am about to be destroyed!*” In the presence of God’s purity all of our impurity surfaces and we know that we offend God!
- “*I am a man of unclean lips*” (6:5) means defiled, dirty, polluted. It is the exact opposite of holy! When Isaiah came into the presence of God’s holiness his exact sin was exposed. Isaiah had spoken dirty things...polluted things. His mouth had been dirty and he knew it. God exposed it!

**Note:** When you meet God’s holiness you will not have any doubt what your specific sins are! I suppose you are experiencing that right now! Right now, the **Holy Spirit** is revealing to you what your sins are! But notice that the God that exposes our sin is also the God who is able to forgive our sins!

*“Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.”* (6:6-7)

Once God exposed Isaiah’s sins...then he completely *took them away* and *purged* them -*kâphar*, means to cover, cancel, atone, appease, pardon or reconcile...to appease or pacify the wrath of God...this to reconcile! Once forgiven, then God revives Isaiah to His mission, “*Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.*” (6:8)

- Revival is about the holiness of God!
- Revival is about conviction of specific sins!
- Revival is about confession of and repentance from those specific sins!
- Revival is about getting back to obedience to God and the mission God has called us to!

**Let this be your prayer today: “Lord, make me holy even as you are holy! In Jesus’ name, amen!”**

**Saturday, February 11**  
**Biblical Fasting**

**Read Matthew 6:16-18:**

**1. What is Fasting?** It is the Greek word, *nēsteuo*, which simply means to abstain from eating food for a season in religious observance. Simply stated, fasting is a season in which we are led of God to not eat so that we might focus completely upon Him!

**2. When should we Fast?** *“Moreover, when ye fast...”* The word *“when”* is a word that describes an uncertain time. This is because nowhere in Scripture are we commanded to fast on a certain day or season. New Testament fasting, then, is something motivated by the leadership of God’s Spirit working in our present circumstances. I see in the Scripture that there were times and seasons that God used in the lives of His servants that motivated them to fast:

- **When Burdened (Nehemiah 1:4):** When Nehemiah’s brother returned to Shushan and told Nehemiah about the condition of the pilgrims there, a huge burden from the Lord overcame Nehemiah and he *“sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven.”*
- **When Threatened (Esther 4:3):** When her entire race faced extermination by the evil plot of Haman, she called upon the beloved Mordecai to get the saints to fasting. You know that God moved in answer to their prayers and fasting and rescued the Jews and destroyed wicked Haman!
- **When Facing a Spiritual “Roadblock” (Matt.17:21)** The man with the demonized son who cast himself into the fire and water sought Jesus’ disciples to set him free but they could not. Jesus revealed, *“this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting”* (Matt.17:21)

**3. What is the Motive of Fasting?** *“But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret...”* (6:17,18a). The motive in fasting as in all of life is the glory of God and not man! We don’t fast for others to see it...we fast in secret for God alone to see it!

**4. What can we Expect from Fasting?** *“and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”* (18b) The word *“reward” apodidōmi*, can mean to restore, perform something, deliver, or repay. That sounds a lot like revival...God restoring us and repairing us and making us whole! How does the Father do it? *“openly” phaneros* – means to go public! To announce something abroad...to make something that was hidden apparent for all to see.

**If you are medically able...would you be willing to abstain from eating today or one day this week for the purpose of seeking God for personal revival? Would you be willing to fast regularly between now and our revival, March 12, and seek God for revival for Shelbyville Mills Baptist Church? May God bless you as you do so!**

**Sunday, February 12**  
**A Plea for Revival – Part 1**

**Read Psalm 85: For the next eleven days,** we will be in Psalm 85 which is a plea for revival. The context of Psalm 85 is the return of the Jews from Babylonian Captivity to Jerusalem (85:1). As Jeremiah prophesied, for seventy long years the Jews had been captives in wicked Babylon due to their sin and rebellion against Jehovah! But now God had been gracious! The captivity was over! The pilgrims had returned to their Promised Land! But when they arrived the land was lying in ruin, rubble, and reproach! The land was desolate and destroyed! In that context the nation cries out to God, “*wilt Thou not revive us again: that Thy people my rejoice in thee?*” (85:6) Remember that the word “*revive*” -*châyâh*, means to make us alive again...to quicken, repair, restore, recover...to give life to again...to make us whole again. It means to revive from sickness, discouragement, or even death. We all need repair! We all need restoration! We all need to recover spiritual ground that has been forfeited by sin and neglect! We all need to be made whole again! In a word, we all need revival! This text may be one of the greatest texts in the Word of God on the subject of revival! It reveals at least 11 things involved in genuine revival:

**1. Revival Involves a Remnant:** “*LORD, thou hast been favourable unto thy land: thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob.*” (85:1) History reveals that when the Decree of Cyrus was signed, releasing the Jews from captivity, very few of the Jews actually wanted to leave Babylon to return and rebuild Jerusalem. While in Babylon many of the Jews fell in love with the commerce and the opportunity to make money. They acquired property, built homes, and settled down in Babylon. In a word, they embraced the world system! They forgot that they were God’s chosen people and embraced the “*learning and tongue of the Chaldeans*” (Dan.1:4b). This was never the will of God. The same prophesies that told of the captivity also told of the return! God’s will was always a return to the land! (See Jeremiah 29:10!)

But praise God there was a remnant (a small group) of people that desired to be “*brought back*” to God and His land - ” *shub* – means to bring back to memory again...to recover...to return home...to repent... to be revived! Often when God begins to revive us He goes to work in our memory to remind us of His goodness, His glory, His mercy, His forgiveness, His blessings! He *brings back* our minds to His favor, grace, and goodness and causes us to desire Him once again!

It seems throughout history that revival has almost always begun with a small remnant of people who remember God’s Word, God’s grace, God’s mercy, and God’s goodness and they begin to diligently seek Him!

**You may be a part of that remnant! You may be one of the very ones God is awakening so that the rest of us are awakened! Don’t let anything stand in the way of your remembering, meditating, pondering, praying, and seeking God this day. Drop everything and seek God for revival with all your heart today...and pray for your brothers and sisters to be revived too!**

**Monday, February 13**  
**A Plea for Revival – Part 2**

Today we take note of the second plea for revival is Psalm 85:2-3 -

**2. Revival Involves a Remembrance of Sin:** *“Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah. Thou hast taken away all thy wrath: thou hast turned thyself from the fierceness of thine anger.”* (85:2-3) Before God revived His people, He first reminded them of a couple of things:

**(A) A remembrance of sin:** *“Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin.”* The word *“iniquity”* - *âvôn*, means perversion and *“sin”* *chattâ’âh*, means to offend God. Israel originally offended God through the perversion of Idolatry (Jeremiah 7:24-8:22) and the forsaking of the Sabbath Year (Ex.23:10-11; Jeremiah 34:12,17,18,20). For 490 years Israel practiced Idolatry and forsook the Sabbath year. So God sent them into captivity for one year for each Sabbath Year they forsook... or 70 years! Until we are willing to deal with the specific sin that has brought about our present condition...there will be no revival! When God reminds us of specific sin, He expects that we repent of that specific sin!

Notice the word *“Selah.”* It is a musical notation indicating a pause...a time of reflection. God is saying, *“stop and ponder this truth...I will completely forgive you!”* This is why we need revival! The mark of genuine revival is a thorough dealing with sin...a heart-felt forsaking of it... a taking sides with God against myself!

**(B) A Remembrance of wrath:** *“Thou hast taken away all thy wrath: thou hast turned thyself from the fierceness of thine anger.”* Here God reveals not only an atonement for sin, *“thou hast covered all their sin”* but two other truths:

- Propitiation – the wrath of God falling upon a substitute: *“turned thyself from the fierceness of thine anger.”* God was able to turn His anger from you because He turned it toward Christ, the Messiah!
- Expiation – the removal of sin and wrath from us – *“thou has taken away all Thy wrath!”* This is the separation of our sin from us as far as the east is from the west! (Psalm 103:12)

In revival there is a new appreciation for what Christ did for us on the cross! When He cried *“it is finished”* (John 19:30) it means that Christ fully atoned for our sin, satisfied the full wrath of God against us, and completely removed our sin from us! *Selah!*

- **Has God reminded you of some specific sin that you are guilty of?**
- **Are you willing to agree with God about that sin right now?**
- **“Selah” Pause and remember today that God is a God who completely forgives and removes our sin from us!**
- **This is the beginning of revival!**

**Tuesday, February 14**  
**A Plea for Revival – Part 3**

Notice the third plea for revival is Psalm 85:4 –

**3. Revival Involves Repentance:** *“Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease.” (85:4)* This word “turn” is used 4 times in this text (85:1,3,4,8). It is the Hebrew word *shûb* – which means to bring back to memory again...to recover...to return home...to repent or reverse the former condition. It is the same as the New Testament word “repent” *metanoeo* – and means *meta* – to change, *noeo* – the mind. It means to think differently afterward or to reconsider...to change the mind about something!

For seventy long years Judah had been in Babylon! They got used to it! They accepted Babylon as normal...as their home...until God used His Word to cause them to remember Him and His promised land! It was when they remembered that they returned to God!

How will we know if we’ve experienced genuine revival? We will think differently afterward! We will be turned from self to God! We will be turned from our way to His way (see 85:13). Our hearts and our wills will be turned toward God! Revival changes the very way we think about self, others, and most of all, God!

Proverbs 28:13 offers us a good definition of true repentance: *“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*

- **Will you confess all known sin to God right now?**
- **And will you forsake it...will you turn away from that sin completely?**
- **Spend some time in prayer right now *confessing* and *forsaking* all sin the Holy Spirit brings to your attention!**

**Wednesday, February 15**  
**A Plea for Revival – Part 4**

The fourth plea for revival is found in Psalm 85:5 –

**4. Revival Involves Responsibility / Recognition:** *“Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations?” (85:5)* While Israel was forgiven and even restored to the land...now they faced the monumental task of clearing the debris and rebuilding the city with its walls and gates. This is where the practical consequences of their sin are brought to bear on them.

There is no contradiction between verse 3 and verse 4b-5. God’s wrath had been appeased...but now they are facing the consequences of their sin. It is for relief from the consequences of their sin that they now cry out to God. Though forgiven, they still had a big mess to deal with because of their rebellion!

Revival involves, not only coming to terms with sin, but also facing the consequences of our sin! Often we face the consequences of our sin long past God’s forgiveness of our sin! It is not only confessing and forsaking sin that God requires (Prov.28:13) but also facing up to and dealing with sin’s consequences!

I believe it was facing the responsibility of sin and the consequences of sin that kept so many Jews from leaving the temporal comforts of Babylon to return to Jerusalem, a city of ash heaps! They simply did not want to take responsibility for their sin...so they stayed in Babylon. The problem with this is that God had promised to destroy Babylon and many that stayed no doubt were destroyed when that judgment fell!

You are always safest in the will of God! God may call you to revive stones from ashes (Nehemiah 4:2), if so do not run from this! Face the consequences of your sin and God will provide the mercy and grace to rebuild what has been torn down through sin and disobedience! But I warn you, if you run from God...you’ll always be running! It is much better to face the consequences of sin today with God than tomorrow in judgment by God!

- **Can you see some consequences you are facing today as a result of past sin?**
- **Have you asked God to remove those consequences? Its ok to do this!**
- **But if He has chosen not to remove the consequences do you still love Him?**
- **Have you asked the Lord to strengthen you to deal with the consequences of sin?**
- **Are you today remaining in sin and disobedience because you fear the consequences of sin? Admit this fear to the Lord and ask Him to give you the grace to repent and trust Him with the consequences of sin!**
- **Revival always involves a move from sin back into the will of God! Make that move today!**

**Thursday, February 16**  
**A Plea for Revival – Part 5**

Now we come to the fifth plea for revival in Psalm 85:6-7

**5. Revival Involves Rejoicing!** *“Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? Show us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.” (85:6-7)* Notice that this verse is the mid-point of the Psalm. It is the “pivot” if you will. Everything changes on this one verse. Verses 1-5 deal with God’s anger and wrath... verses 6-13 deal with God’s blessings for properly responding to His conviction. Here we see the heart of God...His intent in revival! Not to destroy us...but to *“restore unto us the joy of thy salvation.” (Psalm 51:12)*

Remember that the word *“revive” châyâh* – means to make us alive again. But revival is defined in this verse as God becoming our chief joy! That is, we become alive to God again! The word *“rejoice” sâmach* – means to brighten up...to be filled with glee...to cheer up and to make merry...to exceedingly rejoice in God. This is when God becomes our joy! He becomes our happiness! Revival is when we find God to be our greatest treasure. We find God to be that which fills our life with glee! Once again God becomes the center of our lives and with Him comes the joy that we have forfeited in the captivity!

How does God grant us this *“revival”* so that we can *“rejoice”* in Him alone? It is by *“mercy” chêsêd* – God’s kindness and pity. It is a kind and pitiful thing for God to revive us from this death. He *“grants”* to us as a free gift this *“salvation” yasha’* - we get our name *“Jesus”* from this word. Our God is the God who saves! This is not salvation from sin. This is salvation from the spiritual slumber we find ourselves in! This is revival...when God *“revives us again”* and saves us from the cold hearts we had in the captivity!

In revival, we cease to find our joy in the abundance of things (Babylon) and find that our joy is in Christ alone!

- Is Christ pleasurable to you?
- Do you enjoy Jesus?
- Do you treasure Jesus?
- Are you happy?
- Do you have joy?
- Is being a Christian a joy or a burden to you?
- Do you this moment have peace?
- Do you possess deep satisfaction?

These are the things God wants to revive us to! Revival is being revived to God who is our joy, peace, rejoicing, happiness, satisfaction, soundness of mind. **If these things are missing in your life would you admit it to the Lord in prayer right now and cry out for Him to revive you and restore unto you the joy of Christ!**

**Friday, February 17**  
**A Plea for Revival – Part 6**

Notice the next plea for revival found in Psalm 85:8 –

**6. Revival Involves a Readiness:** *“I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.” (85:8)*

**(A) A readiness to hear God’s Word:** *“hear what God the Lord will speak”* This word “hear” is *shâma* - and it means to hear intelligently...to hear with a view toward obedience. And who do we need to hear? *“God the Lord” El Jehovah...* the Mighty God. It means “I will listen attentively when the self-existent, Almighty God speaks! He will have my undivided attention!”

**When you read God’s Word do you hear it? Do you read God’s Word with a will ready to obey what it says? If not you are playing games with yourself and God! Revival comes to those who are serious about following the Word of the Lord!**

**(B) A readiness to heed God’s Word:** *“...but let them not turn again to folly”* God will you not *“revive us again?”* We need revival *“again”* but there is something that we do not need *“again”*...to *“turn again to folly”* - *kislâh* – silliness...foolishness. That which got us into this *“captivity”* in the first place! Our sin! Our pride! Our idolatry! Our perversion! Our aught with our brother! Our apathy! Our lack of prayer! Our lack of Bible devotions! Our lack of family time and devotions! How we need not return to our folly! May we not return again to *“the sin which so easily besets us” (Heb.12:1)*

God help us to hate our folly! Help us to be repulsed by our former folly! Help us to never return there again. ...

*“For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.” (2 Peter 2:21-22)*

As we consider revival are we really ready? Are we ready to *hear* our Lord’s Word and are we ready to *“heed”* what He says?

**Would you make this commitment today: To read God’s Word with a heart ready to obey? Will you turn right now from not hearing and heeding God’s Word? Ask the Lord to make you ready to obey whatever He says to you in His Word.**

**Saturday, February 18**  
**A Plea for Revival – Part 7**

Here is the seventh plea for revival in Psalm 85:9 –

**7. Revival Involves Reverence:** “*Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.*” (85:9) One of the marks of revival is “*fear*” of God - *yârê*’ – to revere Him...fear Him...dread Him! It is to be in awe of God.

This “*fear*” of God causes us to be completely captivated with His “*glory*” *kâbôd* – means the weightiness of God! This is a prayer that the full weight of the Lord might come to rest upon us and the land...that His splendor and beauty may be beheld by all...that the impact of who He is will come to rest on us all!

Revival is a new-found respect for the weightiness...the glory of God! This reverence will manifest itself in a love of God, a love of truth, a new obedience and commitment to His Lordship, and a holy hatred of the sin that He despises! The greatest way to revere God is to hate sin...to hate sin so much that you want to live every moment of your life for the “*glory*” of God!

- Have you taken God’s name in vain?
- Have you been flippant and careless when you speak of God?
- Are you guilty of using the phrase, “*Oh my God!*”
- Have you been disrespectful or irreverent toward the Lord, His Word, His church, His people, or His pastor?
- Do you *fear* God?
- Is your relationship with God *weighty* or superficial?

Revival is a return to a heart-felt reverence and profound respect for God! If you have been careless with God or the name of God...if you have been careless toward His Word or His church...this is a sin to be repented of!

When true revival comes the weight of God will be felt by all of us and there will be a return to a proper respect and reverence and fear of the Lord!

**Spend some time in prayer today asking the Lord to forgive you for things you have said that are disrespectful of God and His holy name! Ask God to return the weightiness of His glory to your life once again. Ask the Lord to restore the fear of the Lord to you!**

**Sunday, February 19**  
**A Plea for Revival – Part 8**

Today we will learn the eighth plea for revival in Psalm 85:10 –

**8. Revival Involves Reconciliation:** “*Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*” (85:10) The words “*met together*” *pâgash*, carries the idea of a hostile or violent meeting. This word is used in Genesis 33:8 when Jacob went out to meet Esau after years of being apart. Jacob was fearful that their meeting would be a violent one...but the outcome was peaceful and even restored the brothers in fellowship. The writer may have had this event in mind when he said, “*Thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob*” (85:1b) That is the same idea here! Opposing forces collide only to bring about a joyous reunion after their meeting. What do I mean? Notice...

(A) “*mercy and truth are met together*” God’s absolute truth collided with His tender mercy...His kindness and favor! God’s truth demands justice! God’s mercy demands grace! These two met together on our behalf!

(B) “*righteousness and peace have kissed each other*” God’s moral and legal justice collided with His peace, *shalom* – His favor...to be friendly and kind! And they “*kissed*” each other *nâshaq* – in addition to a kiss on the mouth...it can mean the paying of homage of a subject to a king...a sign of submission of a lesser to a greater out of respect and honor. It is used of Samuel anointing Saul to be king (1 Sam.10:1). In other words, *righteousness* humbly walked up to *peace* to kiss her as superior and found peace bowing with a kiss of homage to righteousness! They both submitted themselves to the other in honor! Once *mercy* and *truth* had their meeting and got it all settled...*righteousness* and *peace* had no problem kissing and embracing each other.

*Truth* and *righteousness* demanded justice...*mercy* and *peace* called for pity! When the meeting was over, the result was grace! Marvelous grace!

Revival is when we experience the chastisement of God’s righteousness and truth...but also the forgiving kiss of His peace and mercy! Both are necessary to keep the balance of God in tandem! All truth and righteousness produces only cruelty! All peace and mercy produces only sentimentality! But when the two kiss each other...the result is God’s amazing grace! This is revival! Everything God requires God supplies on our behalf! We just need to humble ourselves before Him and receive His reviving grace!

**Spend today’s time in prayer thanking God for His...**

- *Mercy*
- *Truth*
- *Righteousness*
- *Peace*

**Monday, February 20**  
**A Plea for Revival – Part 9**

**9. Revival Involves a Revelation of the Truth:** *“Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.” (85:11)* It appears that *truth and righteousness* left their meeting with *mercy and peace* to continue their work (See yesterday’s devotional!) Here we see *“truth”* at work in *“the earth”* as *“righteousness...looks down from heaven.”* Revival is about being confronted with God’s truth and God’s righteousness. These two things help us to see our great need for God in our lives and families and church again!

- Wherever *truth* springs up from the earth and finds error...*mercy* steps in!
- Wherever *righteousness* looks down from heaven and sees iniquity...*peace* steps in!

Jonathan Edwards used to say, “preach the law before you preach grace.” A person must see their need of grace before they are ready to accept that grace! A man must be convicted of sin before he is ready to embrace forgiveness! A person needs to be made aware of their need of revival or they will never be revived!

I meditated on this phrase *“truth shall spring out of the earth and righteousness shall look down from heaven.”* As I have read of some of the accounts of revivals of yesteryear, one of the things that has intrigued me are accounts of people who were drawn to God merely because they said something drew them to the place where people were seeking God for revival. It was as if the *earth* beneath them and the *heaven* above told them where to go to find out about God!

This should be no mystery since Romans clearly teaches that *“the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Rom.1:20)*

I long for an awakening like this! I believe that the difference between revival and awakening is this: revival is for the saved...awakening is for the unsaved...the surrounding area! How I long to see the power of God so manifested on us, the church (revival), that people in our community feel the earth beneath them and the sky above drive them here to hear the Word of God (awakening)!

**So today let’s pray for these two things:**

- **Lord, *revive* your people...the church!**
- **Lord, *awaken* the people who surround us...the lost world!**

**Pray for the supernatural power of God to use the truth to show lost people their need of Christ and to awaken them and save them! Right now pray and ask the Lord to bring the name of a person to you whom you can invite and bring to Tuesday night of our revival (Friend Night). This might just be the night that God saves them!**

**Tuesday, February 21**  
**A Plea for Revival – Part 10**

**10. Revival Involves Restored Fruitfulness:** *“Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase.” (85:12)* Sin and compromise always affect fruit production! The land of Israel had lay barren for seventy long years due to the sin of God’s people. God had thoroughly dealt with the sin of the people and they had repented and returned to God and to their land.

The first order of business was for God to once again begin to bless their land. The word “*give*,” *nathan*, means to give as a free gift. As a free gift the Lord was going to give to Israel everything “*good*” - *tôb* – all the good and pleasant things required to make something grow! God freely and bountifully bestows what is good and necessary to make the “*land yield her increase.*”

The point is that once Israel got clean with God about their sin, the blessings of God began to flow once again! Sin in the life of a Christian will also stop fruit production! Do you remember Achan in Joshua 7? He stole some silver, gold, and a Babylonian garment and buried them in his tent. When Israel went out to fight against the small city of Ai, they were badly defeated because the Lord saw their sin and would not give them what they needed to win the victory!

When we as a body hide sin, harbor grudges, cultivate bitterness and unforgiveness, we cut off the “good” things that God wants to “give” us and we “yield no increase!” How is your fruit production? A mark of genuine revival is when we once again begin to bear fruit for God’s glory!

**Today would be a good time to look at your fruit! Are you bearing fruit as a Christian? A list of Christian fruit is contained in Galatians 5:22-23.**

- **Are you holding any grudges against anyone?**
- **Is there anyone you have not forgiven?**
- **Is there someone you need to ask to forgive you?**
- **Husbands are you bitter against your wives? (Col.3:19)**
- **Wives are you in a right relationship with your husbands? (Eph.5:22-24)**
- **Are you on good standing with all your brothers and sisters at church?**

**If not, let us make these things right with God and others! Let’s not allow these things to retard our fruit or stop revival in our lives and church!**

**Wednesday, February 22**  
**A Plea for Revival – Part 11**

**11. Revival Involves Righteous Living:** *“Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps.” (85:13)* *“righteousness”* is the dominant attribute of God in this text (10,11,13). It means God’s moral and spiritual purity...His holiness!

*“righteousness”* precedes all that God is and all that He does! It goes *“before him”* *hâlak* means apace ahead or to lead...to be at the forward. In other words, righteousness leads the way for God...is out in front of Him. Before we experience God we first are confronted with the righteousness of God! In revival, we are greeted by the holiness and righteousness of God first! Then and only then does the mercy and peace come! But first we must come to grips with His holiness!

His righteousness *“shall set us”* *śûm* – to appoint or to call by name! God calls us by name to walk in His way which is a way of righteousness. This is what a disciple is! One that is called to follow and obey the Lord!

*“way of His steps”* *paam* – an order or a rank...a going. The order in which we are going on with God is a way or righteousness...a narrow way...a straight way! This is His way and the way of all who follow Him! This is revival...when God takes us from our way and places us in His way!

As we conclude this section on Psalm 85, Here is my prayer as we look to the Lord for revival March 12-15:

- That there is a remnant here at SMBC that will seek God for revival! Revival often comes to the many when the few seek it!
- That we will remember the sin that has caused us to be in captivity and repent and turn back to the Lord with a whole heart!
- That we will be responsible enough to own up to our sins against the Lord. Not make excuses!
- That true rejoicing will be restored to us! That Christ once again will be our chief joy!
- That a readiness to hear and heed the Word of God will return to us!
- That a deep reverence for God will be restored!
- That we will be reconciled completely to fellowship with our Lord in our daily lives!
- That fruitfulness will be restored!
- That we will return to righteous living!

*“Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? Show us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.” (85:6-7)*

**Thursday, February 23**  
**Brokenness Exercise – Part 1**

For the next three days, we will be working through a brokenness exercise from *Revive our Hearts and Life Action Ministries*. As you read through this exercise, be completely honest before the Lord as you discern whether you are a *proud* person or a *broken* person. Remember as you work through this that “...he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. (James 4:6b). Pride is the enemy of revival! Pride is the enemy of Christ! May God “give more grace” as we dealt with our pride before the Lord!

**The Heart God Revives**

*Nancy Leigh DeMoss contrasts characteristics of proud, unbroken people who are resistant to the call of God on their lives with the qualities of broken, humble people who have experienced God’s revival. Read each item on the list as you ask God to reveal which characteristics of a proud spirit He finds in your life. Confess these to Him, then ask Him to restore the corresponding quality of a broken, humble spirit in you. “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise (Psalm 51:17)*

**Proud People**

Focus on the failure of others

A critical, fault-finding spirit; look at everyone else’s faults with a microscope but their own with a telescope  
forgiven

Self-righteous; look down on others

Independent, self-sufficient spirit

Have to prove they are right

Claim rights, have a demanding spirit  
Meek spirit

Self-protective of their time, rights, and their reputation

Desire to be served

**Broken People**

Overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need

Compassionate; can forgive much because they know how much they have been

Esteem others better than self

Have a dependent spirit;  
recognize their need of others

Willing to yield the right to be right

Yield their rights, have a

Self denying

Motivated to serve others

**Spend some time in prayer confessing any and all *pride* the Lord revealed in your heart!**

**Friday, February 24**  
**Brokenness Exercise – Part 2**

Your pastor is praying for you today as we all deal with pride in our hearts! I'm praying for each of you as we all confess our pride as sin and forsake it! Lord, revive your people that we may once again rejoice in You! (Psalm 85:6)

**Proud People**

Desire self-advancement

Have a drive to be recognized and appreciated

Wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked

Have a subconscious feeling, "This church is privileged to have me and my gifts." Think of what they can do for God

Feel confident in how much they know

Self conscious

Keep others at "arms length"

Quick to blame others

Defensive when criticized

**Broken People**

Desire to promote others

Have a sense of their own unworthiness, thrilled that God would use them at all

Eager for others to get credit rejoice in others being lifted up

Heart attitude is, "I don't deserve to have a part in this ministry. Know they have nothing to offer God except the life of Jesus flowing through their broken lives

Humbled by how very much they have to learn

Not concerned with self at all

Willing to risk getting close to others and to take risks of loving intimately

Accept personal responsibility and can see where they are wrong in a situation.

Receives criticism with a humble open spirit

**Saturday, February 25**  
**Brokenness Exercise – Part 3**

**Proud People**

Concerned with being respectable, what others think, work to protect their own image and reputation

Find it difficult to share their spiritual need with others

Want to be sure that no one knows when they have sinned. Instinct is to cover it up

Have a hard time saying “I was wrong will you please forgive me?”

Tend to deal in generalities when confessing sin

Concerned about consequences of sin and more concerned that they got caught

Wait for the other to come and ask forgiveness when there is a misunderstanding or conflict in a relationship

Compare themselves to others and feel worthy of honor

Blind to their true condition

Don't think they have anything to repent of

Don't think they need revival, but are sure everyone else does

**Broken People**

Concerned with being real concerned most with what others think of God. Willing to die to their own reputation

Willing to be open and transparent with others as God directs

Once broken, don't care who knows or finds out. Willing to be exposed because they have nothing to lose.

Quick to admit failure and to seek forgiveness.

Acknowledge specific sin in Confession

Grieved over the cause, the root of the sin. Genuinely repent and forsake the sin

Take the initiative to be reconciled by going first no matter how wrong the other person may have been

Compare themselves to the holiness of God and feel a desperate need for His mercy

Walk in the light of Christ

Realize that they are in need of continual heart attitude of repentance

Sense their need for a fresh encounter with God and for a fresh filling of His Holy Spirit.

**Sunday, February 26**  
**Love the Lord your God!**

**Read Mark 12:28-31:** At the very core of being a disciple of Jesus Christ is an all-consuming love for Him. The need for revival comes because we have waned in our love for Christ. Do you love Christ as this text describes?

1. “*with all thy heart*” – *kardia*, The core of one’s personal being...the very center of all that a man is...the most important place in the human system. The *Expositors Bible Commentary* calls the heart “*the control center*” of man. The heart acts as the main control panel of all our life!

2. “*and with all thy soul*” – *psuche*, literally translates “*breath*.” It means the actual “*life*” of a man that causes his body to move. The soul is that part of man that God created to interact with Him. We have the ability to be aware of His presence...we can perceive Him...we can have thoughts about the Lord, affections, emotions, and feelings. You see, it is our affection, our emotion, our perception, and our thoughts that make a relationship so meaningful! With all of that part of us that is alive! With every breath of life! With that part that is able to reason, deduct, feel, and perceive...Jesus says love me with all that!

3. “*and with all thy mind*” – *dianoia*, a thinking, a thought, a meditation, a reflecting. The faculty of knowing, understanding, and moral reflection. A sentiment, a mindset, or a disposition. I believe here is where we fail more often than any other place. We do not love God with the whole mind. We allow mindsets, sentiments, and dispositions which are contrary to the Word of God to not only exist...but to rule our minds! We love God with all our Minds when we think biblically instead of carnally! Our minds literally need to be daily renewed (renovated Rom.12:2) by meditation upon the Word of God!

4. “*and with all thy strength*” – *ischus*, Bodily powers. In other words, with Jesus at the control center of your life (*heart*)...with a full consciousness of Jesus’ presence in your life (*soul*), with all your mental faculties tuned in and directed toward Him (*mind*)...Serve him with all the strength and energy you have inside your physical body!

5. “*thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself*” (12:31) We cannot say that we love God if we do not love our neighbor (See 1 John 4:20-21!)

- Spend some time in prayer confessing the sin of lack of love for Christ!
- Also, confess the sin of not loving your neighbor as yourself!
- Ask the Lord to once again flood your heart with His love (See Rom.5:5)
- Remember that loving God always manifests itself in obedience (John 14:15; 15:10)
- Remember that loving God always manifests itself in love for others!
- Consider that one of the most loving things you can ever do toward God and your neighbor is to obey the great commission and tell them about the saving grace of God in Christ! (See Matt.28:18-20) This should be motivation for you to love a friend enough to bring them with you to *Friend Night* on Tuesday of our Revival!
- Pray right now...and the Lord will show you who you are to invite! Do it now!!!!

**Monday, February 27**  
**A Lesson from Andrew**

**Read Matthew 4:18-20:** In the Bible, there is a man mentioned several times named Andrew. There is something very interesting about this man Andrew. Almost every time he is mentioned in the Bible, He is bringing a person to see the Lord Jesus. There are four truths we need to observe from Andrew's life as we consider our need for revival:

**1. Andrew's Conversion:** *"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me..." (4:18-19a).* The great call of Christ in the gospel is *"follow me."* Each of us need to seriously ask ourselves this question: Am I truly *following* Jesus Christ? The next verse helps us answer this question truthfully:

**2. Andrew's Call:** *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (4:19b)* Pay attention to that little conjunction *"and."* It reveals that Andrew's call to follow Jesus was at the same time a call to be a *"fisher of men"* ...a witness! Every person God calls to be saved, He calls to be a witness to His saving grace! The call to salvation and the call to be a witness are simultaneous and inseparable! We cannot honestly say we are following Christ unless we are joined with Him in the task of sharing the gospel!

**3. Andrew's Commitment:** *"And straightway they left their nets, and followed Him." (4:20)* The word *"straightway"* *eutheos*, means *"immediately...or as soon as they heard!"* When Andrew and Peter heard Jesus call them, they *"left their nets and followed Him."* They forsook their way, their interests, and immediately started going His way and were consumed with His interests! Does this describe you? Does this describe what happened to you when you were *"saved"* and began to *"follow"* Jesus Christ?

**4. Andrew's Confession: (See John 1:40-42)** *"One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus."* Andrew told others... *"his own brother"* that Jesus was the *"Messiah"* and that Jesus was *"the Christ."* He told others that Jesus was the Savior, the Son of God, the Promised One who would deliver them from their sins! When was the last time you told someone about the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross?

It is very possible that some reading this have discovered that they have not truly been *"following"* Jesus and that you need to be saved! If Jesus is calling you, drop everything right now and turn to Him from your sin and make the lifetime commitment to follow Him and to be a *"fisher of men."*

For many others, you may have been in a season of disobedience to this command of Christ. It may have been years since you brought anyone...told anyone of the saving grace of Jesus. It's time to repent of this sin! It's time to be revived to obedience in being a *"fisher of men."* The Lord is bringing someone to your heart and mind that you can bring to *Friend Night* of our upcoming revival. Go to them! Tell them about Christ! Invite them to come with you to *Friend Night!* Let this be a revival of your being faithful to *follow* Jesus by telling others about Him!

## Tuesday, February 28 Have you lost your song?

**Read Psalm 137:1-4** – In my opinion, this is one of the saddest times in the life of the nation of Israel / Judah. It describes the day they arrived in Babylon, as slaves, where they would spend the next seventy long years for their disobedience to the Lord's Word. When they arrived in Babylon the citizens there asked them to “sing...one of the songs of Zion” (137:3). Israel's reputation for being a joyful (*mirth vs.3*) and singing people had preceded them in Babylon. But when asked to sing...they had nothing to sing because they had lost their sweet song to the Lord! What a sad thing when a child of God loses their joy in the Lord! What a sad thing when a disciple of Christ no longer sings “the songs of Zion.”

- Zion's songs were sung with dancing...but here they “sat down.”
- Zion's songs were festive...but here we seem them “weeping.”
- Zion's songs were set to the harp...but their harps are hung on the sad “willows.”
- Zion's songs were songs of life, but we learn from the *valley of dry bones in Ezekiel 37:11* that Israel was singing a hymn of death: “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.”

Nehemiah revealed that “the joy of the Lord is thy strength” (*Neh.8:10*) Perhaps this is one of the easiest ways to detect our great need for revival...when we lose the joy of God's salvation. King David experienced this when he committed adultery! David had to pray that the Lord would restore unto him the joy of his salvation! (See Psalm 51:12).

Singing sweet songs to the Lord is one of the first things that go when we harbor and hide sin in our hearts! Groaning replaces singing (Psalm 32:3)...we lose the joy of our salvation...sin causes us to *hang our harps out on the willows* and we cease to *sing the Lord's song* because we are *in a strange land*.

- **Do you still have a joyful song in your heart to the Lord today? Can you sing it out to Him with joy right now?**
- **Or honestly, does the thought of singing to Jesus right now grieve you?**
- **Do you have the joy of the Lord this very moment?**
- **Or honestly, have you lost the joy of your salvation?**

The good news is that God led Judah to repent while in Babylon and He raised up leaders to lead them back to Jerusalem where they rebuilt the temple and begin to sing the songs of Zion once more!

**A Prayer:** “Dear Lord, restore unto me the joy of thy salvation! Restore the songs of Zion to my heart once more. May Jesus Christ once again be the joy and rejoicing of my heart. Forgive me and wash me from all my sin (name them specifically). Flood my heart with your joy once again, revive me o Lord, and restore your song to my cold heart! In Jesus' name, Amen!”

## Wednesday, March 1

*"I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being." (Psalm 104:33) Based on yesterday's lesson...let's spend this devotional time with the Lord privately singing the following songs to Him: (or others you love best!!!!)*

*"**Amazing grace** how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come. Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun. We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun."*

*"**Come Thou fount of every blessing** tune my heart to sing Thy grace. Streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it mount of thy redeeming love.*

*Here I raise mine Ebenezer hither by Thy help I've come. And I hope by thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God. He to rescue me from danger interposed His precious blood."*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be. Let Thy grace Lord like a fetter bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander Lord I feel it prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart O take and seal it seal it for Thy courts above."*

*"**Years I spent in vanity and pride** caring not my Lord was crucified, knowing not it was for me He died at Calvary. Mercy there was great and grace was free. Pardon there was multiplied to me. There my burdened heart found liberty at Calvary.*

*O the love that drew salvation's plan, O the grace that brought it down to man, O the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary. Mercy there was great and grace was free. Pardon there was multiplied to me. There my burdened heart found liberty at Calvary.*

***All to Jesus I surrender** all to Him I freely give. I will ever love and trust Him in His presence daily live. I surrender all! I surrender all! All to Thee my Blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

*All to Jesus I surrender Lord I give myself to Thee. Fill me with Thy love and power let Thy blessing fall on me. I surrender all! I surrender all! All to Thee my Blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

*All to Jesus I surrender humbly at His feet I bow. Worldly pleasures all forsaken take me Jesus take me now! I surrender all! I surrender all! All to Thee my Blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

## Thursday, March 2 Breaking Strongholds

**Read 2 Corinthians 10:1-6:** On Sunday, Jan.22, Bro. Jono preached this text dealing with our spiritual warfare. *Strongholds* are something Satan uses to stunt our growth...to weaken the church...to hinder revival. A “*stronghold*” *ochurōma* (*okh-oo'-ro-mah*), is a castle...a fortified place of safety or resistance...a strongly defensive military fortress. In this context, a “*stronghold*” is an unbiblical...

“*imagination*” -*logismos* (*log-is-mos'*), false reasoning...to speculate or calculate in error. It is to rely upon your imagination instead of divine revelation! We are command to “*cast them down*” (10:5) – we are to demolish wrong imaginations! Any idea, sentiment, opinion or logic we have that is not in keeping with God’s Word is to be completely demolished in our thinking!

“*high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God*” The *knowledge of God* - *gnosis*, is the truth as revealed in the pages of Scripture. It speaks of the Bible, the cannon of apostolic teachings! A *Stronghold* is any mindset, opinion, sentiment we have that rears up and *exalts itself* against God’s truth as revealed in Scripture. *High things* must be “*cast down*” too! They must be demolished by Scriptural truth and through prayer!

“*every thought*” *noēma* (*no'-ay-mah*) – everything you think and everything you perceive...your sense of reality...purposes...schemes... plans... intentions! Every thought you have is to be brought “*into captivity to the obedience of Christ*” (10:5) - *aichmalōtizō* (*aheekh-mal-o-tid'-zo*), means a prisoner of war...to defeat an enemy, subjugate that enemy, and take him into custody! God’s will for your life is a pure thought life! Christ wants you to love Him with “*all thy mind*” (Mark 12:30) Jesus desires that all your thoughts be brought under His rule and control!

This is not something you do once, “*And having in a readiness to punish all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled*” (10:6) This verse means that you must constantly war to keep your thoughts free of unbiblical strongholds! You must constantly war and punish any disobedient thoughts, beliefs, opinions, and sentiments if you want to live a victorious Christian life!

So how are you doing? Do you have strongholds? Pray and ask the Lord...

- Lord, what opinions do I have that are not based on Your Word?
- Lord, where are my thoughts rebelling against Your Word?
- Lord, what opinions do I have that set me at odds with you, your church, church leaders?
- Lord, what am I imagining that cannot be proven true by your Word?
- Lord, where do I have a conviction that is not true to your Word?
- Lord, where do I lack a conviction that your Word teaches?

Confess, repent of, and forsake (Prov.28:13) all opinions, sentiments, beliefs, prejudices, false teachings, thoughts the Lord reveals to you. These things stand in the way of revival and they stand in the way of your growth in the Lord! With the help of the Holy Spirit and the written Word of God demolish them all right now through prayer and surrender to Christ’s Lordship!

## **Friday, March 3 The Atwood Revival**

In August 1991, Bro. Don Singleton was asked to preach a “revival” meeting at a small church in Vina, AL. called Atwood Baptist Church. The church was literally out in an open field with nothing in sight near the church. The meetings began in this tiny church building with about 50-60 people in attendance.

The revival services were originally scheduled to go Sunday through Friday. Through the first week preaching there nothing much happened. Bro. Don recalls, “At the end of that first week I didn’t sense that much spiritually had happened at all. But the pastor, Bobby Stancil, told me that he felt led to extend the meetings into a second week. So, I agreed to stay another week and preach.”

Through that second week God began to move in a very powerful way. Toward the end of the second week of meetings the meeting had to be moved to the fellowship hall of the church because so many people were attending the small sanctuary of the church could not hold the crowd. Bro. Stancil felt led to extend the meetings into a third week.

The Atwood Revival continued for two more weeks for a total of four weeks. In the last two weeks Bro. Don preached from the bed of a flat-bed truck outside in the church parking lot. Civil Defense lights from the community were rigged up for lighting and speakers were brought in for sound. These last two weeks Bro. Don preached the gospel each night to between 500-600 souls.

In those four weeks, over 110 people made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and there were five young men who surrendered to Christ to preach the Word of God. One significant element of this revival was the attendance of young people. Almost no young people were there when the meetings began. But as the meetings progressed floods of young people from the local school began to come and bring their friends. The local principal of the high school told Bro. Don one night after the meeting, “*The Lord has given me a brand new High School*” as a result of the revival.

That little community of Vina, AL. was turned upside down for the glory of God. Bro. Don said, “*I’ve never seen anything like it up to that point or since!*” It was one of those rare times when the Holy Spirit chooses to blow on a particular people (John 3:8).

I was in my second semester of Seminary when the Atwood Revival was going on. Each night Bro. Don would call me and tell me what the Lord had done that night. It was truly amazing! I remember saying this to Bro. Don years ago, and I have repeated it many times to him through the years, “*I just pray the Lord lets me experience that once in my lifetime!*” O that this is that time!

**Could we all join together in prayer today and ask the wind of God’s reviving Spirit to blow thorough our church and our city for the glory of Jesus Christ! May Shelbyville become at Atwood March 12-15!**

**Saturday, March 4**  
**Josiah's Revival**

**Read 2 Chronicles 34:15-33** - At **8 years** of age, immediately after his wicked father, King Amon's short two year reign was ended by assassination, Josiah became the King of Judah. Josiah reigned as King of Judah for 31 years, from about 640-609 B.C. Josiah came to the throne at a dark time in the life of Judah. Baal worship and other forms of idolatry had taken over the heart and soul of the nation, due in part to Josiah's wicked father Amon. The judgment of God was forthcoming in the form of Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians! In Josiah's eighth year as king (**16 years old**), he began to seek the "*God of David his father.*" (34:3). It was in "*the eighteenth year of his reign*" (34:8) (**26 years old**) that a true turning point for the nation came...REVIVAL! The temple was being repaired at Josiah's order. While under repair "*Hilkiah the priest found a book of the law of the Lord given by Moses*" (34:14b) and the book (probably Deuteronomy 5-26) was read to King Josiah. The result was revival in Josiah's heart and in the heart of the nation. We learn these principles of revival from Josiah's revival:

**1. Revival often comes through the young!** "*Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign*" (34:1) Often it is the older generation who forgets the Lord and allows the church and the nation to slip off into idolatry. And often the Lord burdens the hearts of a younger generation to return to seeking the "*God of David*" (34:3)

**2. Revival always Comes through Rediscovery of and Return to the Written Word of God!** The Word of God was Found: "*Hilkiah the priest found a book of the law of the Lord given by Moses*" (34:14b) The word "*found*" *mâtsâ* (*maw-tsaw*) means to find something that was lost or hidden. It is a sad day when the Word of God is hidden in the temple instead of the hearts of God's people! "*Thy word have I hidden in my heart that I might not sin against thee*" (Psalm 119:11)

**3. Josiah reveals the heart that is ready for revival:** "*Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD. Behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place, and upon the inhabitants of the same.*" (34:27-28) Listen to these words...the fertile ground of revival. **Pray this is your heart...**like Josiah!

- *tender* – soft, pliable, moldable
- *humble thyself* (*kana*) – to be conquered or vanquished!
- *rend thy clothes* – to repent...to "*turn from your wicked ways*"
- *weep* – to be broken hearted over sin...to mourn over sin!

**4. Revival is God's ordained means to repair and restore His people (34:30-33)** Remember that the word "*revival*" in the Old Testament means to repair or to restore! That took place under Josiah's leadership! **Pray today for revival in your heart...and in the hearts of your brothers and sisters at SMBC!**

**Sunday, March 5**

While revival is for the people of God, “*my people*” (2 Chron.7:14), whenever God’s people are revived it always has an impact on the surrounding community (as in the case with Bro. Don and the Atwood Revival).

With that in mind, I want to ask you to fill out the card below with the name of the person the Holy Spirit has laid upon your heart to bring to “*Friend Night*” Tuesday, March 14, during our revival services. **In your small group meeting this morning your small group leader will receive your cards and your class will begin today with special prayer for your friend!** Please spend this morning’s devotional time in prayer for

- Your friend you are inviting
- Dr. Jimmy Milikin who will be preaching
- Bro. Bryan Seay who will be leading worship
- Bro. Jono who will be overseeing the meetings
- For yourself to be revived!!!!
- For your brothers and sisters at SMBC to be revived!
- For a genuine revival to impact our city for God’s glory
- For the salvation of lost souls (your friend!)

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**(CUT OUT AND BRING TO SMALL GROUP THIS MORNING!)**

**My Friend for Friend Night  
Tuesday, March 14, 2017**

**Name of Friend:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your name (SMBC MEMBER)** \_\_\_\_\_