

Sowing Into Revival

- **Biblical Revival:** Timothy Keller

- **Frontier Revival...**A season of vigorous evangelistic exertion. Revival is something you can work at making happen and is based mostly on method (*Revival services this weekend!*). This revival happens mostly outside the church.
- **Pentecostal/Charismatic Revival..**Church growth accompanied by the extraordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit. This type of revival happens mostly inside the church.
- **Biblical Revival...**The intensifications of the ordinary operations of the Holy Spirit, i.e., conviction of sin, conversion, the giving of assurance, and sanctification. This type of revival happens within the heart of the individual and tends to impact whole geographic regions.

• **When revival happens...**

- **Sleepy Christians** wake up

- Won't you **revive** us again, so your people can rejoice in you? (Psa 85:6 NLT-SE)
- ² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. ⁴ Yet I hold this against you: **You have forsaken** (left behind, gone on without) **your first love**. ⁵ Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first...To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. (Rev 2:2–5, 7 NIV)

- **Nominal Christians** get converted

⁷ Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. ⁸ Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will **harvest everlasting life** from the Spirit. (Gal 6:7–8 NLT-SE)

- Paul is addressing born-again believers. The “eternal life” referenced here is not the life to come, but rather **the kingdom life we have access to...NOW!** It's His ever-existent, always and forever, dunamis power and life.
- You can't go from person-to-person and decide who is a Christian and who is not. During times of revival, **that's actually what the Holy Spirit IS doing!**
- Create in me a clean heart, O God. **Renew** (*Revive*) a loyal (*steadfast, prepared, ready*) spirit within me. (Psa 51:10 NLT-SE)

- **Hard to reach non-christians** get dramatically brought to faith and brought into the church. When sleepy christians wake up and nominal christians get converted, the church becomes a

beautiful place, a powerful place! They begin to reach out and people hear about it because they are curious.

- **What are the “Marks” of biblical revival?**

- There is almost always some sense that the **gospel is recovered**. It is believed and communicated in a vital and vivid way. Things move away from legalism and towards love.
- There is a sense of **repentance**. Revivals aren’t always joyful and noisy, but there is often a sense of awe...even silence. Humility is at the center of this manifestation.

“In times of evangelism, the evangelist seeks the sinner, in times of revival the sinner comes chasing after the Lord.” ~ J. Edwin Orr

- **Anointed corporate worship** is also at the center of revival. Everybody knows that God is there. (*1 Cor 14...God is here!*)
- There’s always **church growth**. You can have church growth without revival, but you cannot have revive without church growth.

“Revival is not churches filled with people, but people filled with God...In revival the church, the roadside, the hillside - all become places made sacred by the cry of the repentant.” ~ Duncan Campbell

- **Extraordinary prayer**. Not just for my needs, but for the needs of the kingdom.

- **Three Historical Revivals**

- **The Hebrides Revival** (1949-1952) Main figure...**Duncan Campbell**. “Our God shall surely come.” Ps 50:3.
 - **The Hebrides Revival...**“was a powerful move of God in response to the prayers of 7 men and two elderly ladies who refused to let go of God and who wouldn't take "NO" for an answer - They believed He was a covenant-keeping God and that if they kept their part, God would be true to His promise to "Heal their land.”
 - **You can’t get away from God...**“The scripture, 'Wither shall I go from your Spirit, or wither shall I flee from your Presence?' took on a very real meaning. One night a man went to the manse in great concern of his soul. He was brought into the study and the minister asked him, 'What happened to you, I have not seen you in any of the services?' 'No,' he replied, '**But, I can’t get away from the spirit.**’”

“The success or failure of our work as a church or mission depends, in the last resort, largely, not in the number of preachers we put into the field, nor on the size of our congregations, but rather on the character of Christianity we and our work produce.” ~ Duncan Campbell

- **The Welsh Revival** (1904-1905) Main figure...**Evan Roberts**. “One Friday night, when praying by my bedside, I was taken up to a great expanse - without time and space.” It was communion with God. (*For about 3 months this happened every night*) His cry was “Lord, bend me!”

- He asked for 100,000 to be saved. Writing to his family members, he said, “**You must have the baptism of the Holy Spirit and then work!**”
- Evan Roberts speaking was unorthodox, many times weeping as he spoke. His cry was, “**Bend the church and save the world!**” He was often criticized for emotionalism.
- Within 8 months, 150,000 people had applied for church membership. Revival historian J. Edwin Orr, said that as many as 250,000 people (25% of the population) may have been converted.
- **The Evangelical Revival/Great Awakening (1739-1791)** **John Wesley** was brought to deep faith by visiting Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians at Hernhuut, Germany. He returned to England and the Spirit fell on John and **Charles Wesley** and **George Whitfield** one evening and their response was, “**Will God indeed, dwell with men on earth?**” This was called “The Holy Club Meeting.”
 - The church came against them, **forced them out into the streets** and it was George Whitfield who started the first open air meetings on the streets of London. John Wesley was barred from speaking in his father’s church. So he stood outside on his father’s grave and preached instead.
 - Wesley’s greatest gift was his ability to **organize the new converts into churches**. He never wanted to start a denomination (Methodism), but was forced to because the traditional church wouldn’t accept him.

“There is what somebody called a ‘**Divine disorder**’ always in revival, some groaning and agonizing under conviction, others praising God for the great salvation.” ~ Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones

- **The first Methodist church** was started in 1739 where the Wesley’s preached unhindered. As with the apostle Paul, wherever John Wesley went, either a revival or a riot would follow. George Whitfield made his way to America and help in the **Great Awakening**.
- John Wesley set up preached on horseback called “**Circuit Riders**,” who traveled thousands of miles the countryside. Throughout this time, around 25% of the population gave their lives to Jesus Christ! John Wesley died in 1791 and his last words were, “**The best of all is, God is with us!**”

- How do you “sow” into revival?

- **See** and **believing** what God is doing...Sowing begins with seeing, not doing. Specifically, you begin to see the things that have their source in **God’s grace, not man’s effort**. This takes knowing the heart of the King and believing that what you are seeing truly reflects His heart.

“A revival is something that can only be explained by the direct action and intervention of God. These events belong to the order of things that men cannot produce and if you can explain what is happening... then it is not revival.” ~ Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones

- **Engage** with what God is doing...Moving from the sidelines to the playing field. Those on the sidelines are still part of the team, they still enjoy the benefits of that the team accomplishes, but there’s just something knowing that contributing directly.

“Revival looks like a healthy family!”

- **Nurture** what God is doing...Using your gifts to become a functional part of the process of bearing fruit, not just in your own life, but in the lives of others. The sons of Issachar (1 Chr 12:32) saw and understood the times, “All these men ***understood the signs of the times.***” What separated them from the others is that they knew what to do with what they saw and believed, “All these men understood the signs of the times and ***knew the best course for Israel to take.***” There will be a remnant who won’t just welcome change, but want to be part of seeing fruit come from the change.

- **What do we have to “sow.”**

¹ Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o’clock prayer service. ² As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money.

⁴ Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵ The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. ⁶ But Peter said, “I don’t have any silver or gold for you. **But I’ll give you what I have.** In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!”

⁷ Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man’s feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. ⁸ He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. (Acts 3:1–8 NLT-SE)