

THE REVIVAL OF FELLOWSHIP

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
THE REVIVAL OF FELLOWSHIP
Text: Psalm 85:6; Habakkuk 3:2

Prayer

My Father, the Almighty God, thank You for You have always stood by us and You have promised that You are with us, Lord we pray that You will teach us and lead us into all truths in Jesus Christ's name.

Introduction

Revival is not just a gathering, a program, or a time of intense prayer. Revival is a divine awakening that brings us back to where God wants us to be. It is a time when God searches our hearts, exposes what has gone wrong, restores what has been lost, and sets our spiritual fire burning again.

Bible Text: Psalm 85:6; Habakkuk 3:2

Psalm 85:6 Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?

Habakkuk 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.

Study

What is revival?

Revival is a spiritual awakening. A restoration in which God's people are stirred back to genuine love for God, repentance, holiness, prayer, obedience, and spiritual vitality. That is revival. It is a moment where believers are confronted with the truth about their spiritual state. I want to say that the time of revival is a time of truth. The time of revival is a time that a person will come to know the truth about themselves, about himself or

herself. That is what the time of revival is. So, it is a time of spiritual evaluation. You evaluate your relationship with God. That is the time of revival. You evaluate your relationship with God in the time of revival. The thing is this: as ministers, most times, we are carried away with ministerial responsibilities, taking care and keeping watch over others without watching ourselves. And this is why many people experience spiritual burnout. You run from one place to another in service. You run from one place to another, maybe for work, maybe for office work, maybe for business, maybe for schooling, and all these things. You run helter-skelter without having a time to have personal reflection about your spiritual life. And because we are in this world and everything seems to look physical, we tend to forget and neglect our spiritual walk with God.

We tend to neglect and forget our relationship with God. And even what many of us now do is just things that have to do with the surface. They have no deep roots. It is possible to go a whole year without any retreat to seek revival. That is why we are calling ourselves back now to the need to get revived. We must know why we need revival. Our spiritual fire must not go out. It must not burn out. We can be so busy with work. We can even be so busy with the work of the Lord that we now forget the Lord of the work. If we do not set a time to get revived, we will not realize that we are growing cold daily.

Because there is always one thing or the other that wants to take our time. It may not even be the work of the Lord. It can be our own work. Have you ever sat down to think about it, that if the way I'm taking my relationship with God is the same way I'm taking the job I'm doing? will I progress? With the way I have taken my studies, if that is the way I'm taking my spiritual life, would I not be better than this? have you ever sat down to think about it? We all like to excel in our work. We like to prosper in

what we do. We like to excel in our academics. We like to prosper in our businesses, but many do not care about the prosperity of their souls. Whereas, our relationship with God should be the priority before any other thing, because that is what will determine where we spend our eternity. As ministers of God and leaders in Christ's vineyard, we need to set ourselves on fire, the truth remains that before we become leaders or before we become workers in the house of God, we are first of all Christians. We are first of all children of God. And our relationship with God, will have a lot to tell us about our service to God. When our relationship with God is not cordial, is not okay, then our service to God cannot be okay. So, I would like us to know that there are signs that will show that we need revival urgently. There are many people that need urgent revival. And that is what I'm here to talk about now.

And by God's grace, I will mention 10 clear signs that you will see in your life that show that you need urgent revival.

1. When you work for God because of what you want to gain from God: No selfless service. You are working in God's vineyard because of the proceeds that come from it. And would stop if you are not paid as an instrumentalist or pastor. You sat down to strategize that if I learn musical instruments, I can be playing for churches and get paid. Or you feel God is going to give me money If I will for Him. If I work for Him, He'd build a house for me. If I work for Him, He'dis going to give me a job.

It may be a job opportunity. It can be marriage. It can be education. You want further education. "If I work for God, that is the reason He is going to do this for me." You need revival. So, when you work for God because of what you want to gain from Him and not because you want to serve Him selflessly, it is a sign of misplaced priority and service.

2. When you are always restless in your service to God: Despite that you are serving God, and working for Him. Yet, you are very, very restless. And always so. You don't always feel okay. Yes. Then, you need urgent revival.

3. When you hear God's Word and that is where it ends: You do not have time to think about them and put them into practice. No time to think about it. No time to meditate on God's Word. No time to put it into practice. **James 1:22 (KJV)** “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” You just hear the Word of God, though it's not that you don't go to church. You go to church. But after hearing the message, by the time you step out of the church, the message has gone. Then, you need urgent revival. There is no time for personal reflection. You are too busy to reflect on what we have heard, and your mind is always on how you can make money.

4. When your prayer life becomes so dry and whenever you are in the midst of other believers praying, you feel empty and disconnected: The moment in your spiritual life, in your prayer life, you become so dry. So dry that you see no life. There is no life in it, something is wrong. You are just praying for praying's sake. Praying and you feel empty, always disconnected, always distracted too. Then, urgent revival is needed.

5. When you don't study the Word of God and always find it very boring when you are listening to it: You don't study the Word of God. No personal study of the Word of God, nor reading it, but rather find it boring, sounding so boring. Then, we need revival. We need revival.

6. When we always give excuses for sin and not take responsibility for them: If you fall into sin and claim others are

doing it, you need revival or you are claiming It is business, there's no way we won't tell lies in this business, something is wrong. You are not pricked in your hearts that this thing I have done is bad, and you are not rushing to repent, but staying comfortable in the sin, then, you need urgent revival. When little, little sins begin to look normal, interestingly, you are the one that believes that a particular sin is little, but it's not small before God, thinking some sins are normal is a proof of urgent revival.

7. When spiritual activities now become very boring, tiring, and even going to church now becomes as if you are forced or compelled to: Do you find going to church a problem? Even joining online studies is a problem. Reading the teachings is a problem. To join prayers, and other spiritual activities, is a problem. Then something is amiss. Now, all these things point to the fact that we need revival. The moment spiritual activities become boring, when you go to church, and the sermon becomes so boring. And even going to church now begins to look as if you are compelled, as if they are forcing you, it means that you need revival.

8. When we no longer think about what God thinks about our service to Him, but what men think and say, seeking to please men: When we don't think about what God is thinking about our service, we don't sit down and say, "Ah, with the way I'm doing this, with my service to God, is God pleased with it? What does God feel about it? Am I doing it to His expectation? Am I measuring up to the standard He wants me to measure up to?" When we don't sit down to think about this, all we are concerned about is what people will say.

"If I don't do this, they are going to talk."

"If I do this, they will not like it."

No, that is where we need revival. We need revival.

When our service is no longer to God, the Bible says:

“Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;” — **Ephesians 6:6, KJV**. So, we must let our service be to God. When we want people to see that we are working for God, then we need revival. So, our service must consistently be to God, to please God and not man.

9. When spiritual discipline that leads to a consecrated life before God now looks like a bondage: When you begin to feel like this thing is too hard, the things that we must do, our prayer life that we must take seriously, our fasting life that we must take seriously, when those things now begin to look like bondage, whereas these are the things that are supposed to consecrate us to live a life that is pleasing to God. But we neglect these things. We see them as bondage and we are finding them difficult to do, then we need revival.

10. When you are now more earthly conscious than heavenly conscious: The moment we do think about the things of this earth, no longer think about the things of heaven, the moment we are carried about the things that have to do with earthly concerns, then we need revival. “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” — **Colossians 3:1-3, KJV**. So, when we are no longer heavenly-focused but earthly-conscious, then we need revival. We need that the fire of God be reignited in our hearts. We need that the Lord should touch our hearts and bring back that fire. Yes. We need to now begin to strengthen those things

that remain that are ready to die. **Revelation 3:2 (KJV)** “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.” So, we have talked about the signs that show that we need revival.

Now, what is revival meant to do in our lives? As servants of God, and as christians in general.

1. Revival is meant to bring restoration.“ Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?” — **Psalms 85:6, KJV.** We are being restored. We are being restored back to our rightful spiritual state. That is what revival is meant to do in our lives.

2. Revival is meant to lead us to repentance. It is meant to lead us to repentance wherever we have missed it. It will bring us back to where we'd sit down to think about our mistakes. Where have I missed it? What are the things I have started doing that I am not supposed to do? What are the things that I was doing that was helping my spiritual growth that I have stopped doing? Through sincere self reflection, we then choose to repent of our false steps, our mistakes, our errors. So, that is what revival is meant to do in our lives.“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” — **2 Chronicles 7:14, KJV**

3. Revival is meant to bring back hunger for God. Yes, when we set ourselves up for things like this, and when we set ourselves to be revived, then it is meant to bring back our hunger for God. If I may ask us now, where is our hunger for God? The way you used to study the Bible, is it the same way you still study it now? The way you used to pray, is it the same way you are

praying now? Is there any improvement? Yes. Now, the way you used to fast, do you still fast that way? Or have you declined? Yes. Is your seriousness in the things of God still there? Is that hunger still there? Everything has now become so cold, right? Revival will bring you back to shape. **“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” — Matthew 5:6, KJV.** Is hunger there? So, revival is meant to bring back that hunger. That is what revival is meant to do. So, what is our hunger? Where is our hunger? Our hunger for prayer, is it still there?

4. Revival is meant to produce holiness. It is meant to produce holiness, in the areas whereby we are short of holiness. So, we must know that revival will help us to dwell more on righteous living. It will sharpen our spiritual sensitivity to know the things that are right for us from the things that are not right for us. And it will help us to pattern our lives in accordance to the will of God and the purpose of God in holiness. So, revival is meant to make us holy.

5. Revival is meant to renew our minds and revive us to an acceptable service before God. **“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.” — Romans 12:2, KJV.** That is it. So, revival is meant to renew our minds. So, we should think the way God wants us to think. We should think not according to the ways of men but according to how God wants us to think. Revival will now help us to offer acceptable services before God. So, everything we now do before the Lord will now be acceptable to Him.

6. Revival is meant to help us exercise self-control. Yes, we have to exercise self-control in terms of discipline. With our tongue, we exercise self-control. In the flesh, we exercise

self-control. Revival will help us to exercise self-control in the things we see, in the music we hear, in the things we wear, in the places we go to, in the drinks we drink, in the foods we eat. We'll be able to exercise self-control. Revival will help us to do that.

7. Revival is meant to ignite the fire of the love of God in our hearts. If I may ask us now, where is the love of God in our hearts? Is the love of God still in our hearts? Yes. Is it still in our hearts? Jesus Christ says **“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”** — **John 14:15, KJV.** So, when we are revived, the love of God will be in our hearts. That fire will be in our hearts and be burning there. It will not die. But the moment we observe the opposite then it means that the love of God is no longer in our hearts, or it is going down, then we need revival to ignite the fire.

Praise God.

7. Revival is meant to bring back humility in our service to God and the brethren. We need to serve others in humility. We need to serve God in humility. That's what revival will do to us. So, it will help us bring back humility in our service to God and the brethren.

8. Revival is meant to make our secret lives correspond with our public life. The way you are living in secret will correspond with the way you are living in public. Not that you'll be living another kind of life secretly and will not be living another one outward. No! When we receive revival, it will help us to make a self-reflection of our secret life and will make sure that our secret life tally with our public life. Not that we'll be sinning privately, we'll be sinning secretly, and will now come publicly and be living righteously, showing that we're righteous. That is hypocrisy. Yes. So, revival will help us to think about where we

are missing and help us to amend our ways so that our secret life can tally with our public life.

9. Revival is meant to ultimately prepare us for the coming of Christ: Yes. It is meant to ultimately prepare us for the coming of Christ. That is the purpose of our being on earth, that we'll be able to reign with Christ in eternity. So, when we are revived, we will be heavenly-conscious. We'll not only be concerned about the things of this world, we'll focus on the things of the kingdom. And this would help us to reign with Jesus.

And after all of our services on earth, our labors on earth, we'll be able to reign with Jesus in heaven. Amen

Praise the name of the Lord.

SELF-EXAMINATION

I want us to have self-examination. Let's examine ourselves. In what area do I need revival?

1. How is my personal relationship with God right now?
2. How consistent and sincere is my prayer life, especially when nobody is watching?
3. How seriously do I obey God's instructions, even when obedience is inconvenient or costly?
4. How committed am I to living a holy life and separating myself from things that displease God?
5. When the Holy Spirit exposes my sin, how quickly and sincerely do I repent?

I pray that the Lord will revive us all in Jesus Christ's name.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp **+2347067511039** and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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Contacts:

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+2349028350180

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Edited & Compiled by

Joanna O. Adewuyi

Goodness O. Wande-Oloro

Media Team

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