

THAT THY PEOPLE MAY REJOICE

PSALMS 85:6

Text: Psalms 85:6

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

Introduction:

There are probably few Christians attending church regularly, who are unfamiliar with II Chron.7: 14, which says:

2 Chronicles 7:14

¹⁴ 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.

That verse embodies what is usually thought of as the principles and promises of revival. In those words, we find a most vivid definition of revival. You may have heard them over and over throughout your life; but they are no less true today than the day you first heard them.

However, it isn't the principles and promises of revival I am concerned with today, but rather the precursor of it. You see, real revival stems from an acute sense of spiritual neediness. In that sense it is somewhat like salvation. One cannot acquire what he doesn't yet realize he needs.

If ever we needed to realize how needy we are before God, it is now. If ever we needed to ask the question, "Wilt thou not revive us again?" it is now.

I want to talk about some spiritual conditions in the life of a Christian or a church that indicates the need for revival. May we be willing to let the Holy Spirit of God examine our hearts today!

The need for revival becomes crucial when:

1. OUR HEART IS CROWDED

A. Worldly Affections Can Crowd Our Heart

1. It's easy to allow the things of this life to crowd the Lord off the throne of our heart

2 Timothy 2:4

⁴No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

2 Timothy 4:10

¹⁰ For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

2. We are to keep the things of God as our main focus.

Colossians 3:2

² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

1 John 2:15

¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Note:

One of the greatest problems among God's people in our day isn't so much that of committing gross sin, as it is a worldliness of attitude and action.

The Bible defines. Worldliness is the lust of the flesh (a passion for sensual satisfaction), the lust of the eyes (an inordinate desire for the finer things of life), and the pride of life (self-satisfaction in who we are, what we have, and what we have done).

B. Wrong Associations Can Crowd Our Heart

Proverbs 1:10

¹⁰ *My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.*

Proverbs 1:15

¹⁵ *My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:*

Proverbs 4:14

¹⁴ *Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.*

Note:

We are to be an agent that God can use to change the world, not changed by the world.

C. Wicked Amusements Can Crowd Our Heart

1 Thessalonians 5:22

²² *Abstain from all appearance of evil.*

2. OUR HEART IS COLD

A. Cold in Our Love

Matthew 24:12

¹² *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

1 John 4:7

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of*

God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

B. Cold Toward the Lord

1. Like the church of Ephesus, many saints have waned in their love for the Lord.

Revelation 2:4

⁴ Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

2. Our waning love for the Lord reveals itself in our conduct.

John 14:15

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Luke 6:46

⁴⁶ And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

C. Cold Toward the Lost

Romans 10:1

¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

1 Corinthians 9:22

²² To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain

the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

Note:

It's easy, because of the busyness of our lives, to forget that one day Jesus is going to return, and our lost loved ones, friends and neighbors will be left behind.

3. OUR HEART IS CORRUPT

A. What We See Can Corrupt Our Heart

Psalms 101:3

³ I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

B. What We Study Can Corrupt Our Heart

Proverbs 23:7

⁷ For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

Romans 8:6

⁶ For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Philippians 4:8

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Psalms 119:11

¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.