



On Revival

By

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Teaching Notes are Bible studies we taught before GraceLife Ministries began publishing articles online in 1995. Some were presented as sermons, others as group studies.

Our hope is that these older studies will be a blessing to you in your life and ministry. Please use them in any way God leads you.

These teaching notes are from a series of studies about Revival.

[These notes are from a study taught more than 40 years ago. The notes are in outline form.]

*** Before I share a series of studies from more than 40 years ago about revival, I want to address some of the ‘revivals’ that are going on in our country right now (2018).

Many modern revivals are focused on evangelism. That’s similar to what I remember as a child in church in the 1950’s and as a young Christian in the 1970’s. The emphasis was and still is on salvation.

Some of today’s revivals are focused on church membership – getting people back in church after a time away from attending services.

Other ‘revivals’ are focused on politics, making changes in government and getting voters to the polls. I **read about** one “progressive Christian” group that is focused on “flipping” Congress in November’s elections. I say “progressive Christian” because of the identity of the leaders. [More information about these leaders is available **here** and **here**.] The group is holding rallies across the country for the express purpose of voting one particular political party out of power.

“Let’s get Biblical instead of Republican this voting cycle and vote for the common good that will be a direct result of flipping Congress!” *Vote Common Good*

What does it mean to “get Biblical” when talking about revival? Here is the outline from a radio program script from the mid-1970’s. Let’s see how it approaches the question about “Biblical” revival. ***

Keys To Revival

A. Love

1. For God
2. For the Brethren
3. For the Lost

B. Obedience: To every word that is spoken by God in His Word

C. Sacrifice

1. Of Life
2. Of Time
3. Of Energy
4. Of Talents
5. Of Personal Desires
6. Of Personal Rights
7. Of Personal Expectations

D. Servant's Heart: Toward God and Man

Biblical Revivals and Awakenings

- 1 Samuel 7:5-6
- I Kings 18:21-40
- II Chronicles 30
- Ezra 10
- Luke 3:2-14
- John 4:28-42
- Acts 2
- Acts 8:5-8
- Acts 9:35
- Acts 11:21
- Acts 13:48
- Acts 18:8
- Acts 19:18-20
- Isaiah 35:6
- Lamentations 3:40
- Hosea 6:2
- Hosea 14:2
- Zechariah 8:21
- I Kings 15:12
- II Kings 10:27
- II Kings 11:18
- II Kings 23:4
- II Chronicles 31:1
- II Chronicles 33:15
- Ezra 10:3

- Nehemiah 13:19
- II Chronicles 29:15
- Matthew 21:12
- John 2:15

Revival Specifics

1. Revival is a new and desperate love for Jesus Christ.
2. Revival is a deep love and hungering for the Word of God.
3. Revival is a complete obedience to God's Word
4. Revival is an active and living faith in God and His Word
5. Revival is a complete sacrifice of life, goals, desires, rights and personal expectations
6. Revival is a totally disciplined life
7. Revival is a life full of prayer and fasting
8. Revival is a true humbled spirit — a broken and contrite heart
9. Revival is a servant's heart — preferring others better than yourself
10. Revival is having all personal values directed by the Holy Spirit
11. Revival is having all personal motives directed by the Holy Spirit
12. Revival is total honesty before God and every man
13. Revival is complete transparency of heart and life
14. Revival is having clean hands and a pure heart before the Lord
15. Revival is having a clear conscience toward God and toward every man
16. Revival is the joy of the Lord filling us in the morning — sustaining us through the day
17. Revival is God's new, fresh vitalization of the Church

18. Revival is the resurrection life of Christ coursing through the Church
19. Revival is the Church crowding the upper room in mighty conquering power
20. Revival is our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with singing
21. Revival is the falling of God's fire upon the Church
22. Revival is the reentry of Jesus Christ into prominence in His Church
23. Revival is the new beginning of obedience to the voice of the Holy Spirit
24. Revival is times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord
25. Revival is the Church filled with all the fulness of God
26. Revival is walking in the light and experiencing the power of the Blood of Christ
27. Revival is the renewal of the wonderful works of Christ in His Church
28. Revival is being loosed from the grave clothes of formality into the new life of the liberating Spirit
29. Revival is the people of God enjoying one hundred percent spiritual life through their great high Priest
30. Revival is the Church "saying so"
31. Revival is the sovereign, supernatural, spontaneous outworking of God's Holy Spirit
32. Revival is the lamp stands burning brightly, beautifying Christ in their midst to a lost and dying world
33. Revival is experiencing daily brokenness before the wondrous Cross of Christ
34. Revival is the backslider restored to his or her first love
35. Revival is great grace on the Church for great power in witnessing
36. Revival is the beauty of holiness adorning the Church

37. Revival is sowing in tears and reaping in joy
38. Revival is taking the yoke of Christ upon us to learn of the Servant's heart
39. Revival is experiencing the opening of Heaven's windows
40. Revival is the people of God living in the power of an ungrieved, unquenched Spirit

Revival is True Discipleship!

1) What is true revival?

- It is a new beginning of obedience **to** God.
- It is a renewed love **for** God and His Word.
- It is a renewed faith **in** God.

2) How can I know when my church needs revival?

- Does your church lack a spirit of genuine love among the brethren?
Then it needs revival!
- Is there a worldly spirit in the church? Then it needs revival!
- Are any members living in gross sin? Then it needs revival!
- Are sinners in this community careless and unconcerned about spiritual things? Then it needs revival!
- Do the wicked triumph over the church? Then it needs revival!

3) When can we expect revival from God?

- When wickedness grieves, humbles and distresses Christians.
- When Christians pray as if their hearts were set upon revival.
- When Christians confess their sins one to another.
- When Christians are willing to make every sacrifice to carry it on.

4) What can we do to see revival come to our hearts and church?

- Confess every sin against God **to** God and every sin against people **to** those people.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with His love, joy and peace.

5) What are some of the sins that we should confess and ask forgiveness for?

- **Lack of love** – “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love ... If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?” 1 John 4:7-8, 20
- **Judging** – “Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.” Matthew 7:1-2 ... “Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.” Romans 2:1
- **Bitterness** – “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.” Hebrews 12:15
- **Unforgiving spirit** – “And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may

forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.” Mark 11:25-26

- **Pride** – “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.” 1 Peter 5:5-6
- **Selfishness** – “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others ... For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s.” Philippians 4:3-4, 21
- **Boasting** – “For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?” 1 Corinthians 4:7
- **Rebellion and Stubbornness** – “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.” 1 Samuel 15:23

Other sins to confess –

- disobedience
- ungratefulness
- impatience
- discontent
- covetousness
- murmuring

- complaining
- jealousy
- strife
- anger
- wrath
- hatred
- bodily harm
- murder
- gossip
- lying
- profanity
- idle words
- evil thoughts
- complacency
- hypocrisy
- worshiping other gods
- lost first love
- worry
- fear
- unbelief
- unfaithfulness
- neglecting prayer and study of God's Word
- lack of desire to share the Gospel
- irresponsibility
- laziness
- slothfulness
- inhospitable

- temporal values
- cheating
- lust of the flesh
- lust of the eyes
- pride of life
- adultery
- homosexuality
- illegal drugs
- witchcraft

6) How will we know when revival really comes?

- Members will love one another as Jesus loves
- Members will be joyful under crosses and disappointments and pain.
- Members will grow jealous for the honor of God and for the purity of His Church
- Members will think of others before themselves
- Members will grow closer to the things of God and further from the things of the world
- Members will not speak severely or judge others unlovingly
- Members will have a growing tranquility under sudden and crushing life circumstances
- Members will want to share the Gospel with others
- Members will see conviction of sin in their church and community

After spending several years studying revivals in the Old and New Testament and in recent years in America and abroad, we believe we have discovered the key that will unlock the door to any individual, any family, any church, any community and nation that will use it.

[Elaborate on revivals in the Bible and during the last 150 years in the United States.]

What is the key that unlocks the door to personal and nationwide revival? It is **obedience!**

“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.” Isaiah 1:19-20

Obedience brings blessing.

Disobedience brings conflict.

The opportunity that faces us this morning is how do we make this biblical precept part of our everyday lives?

For a few moments let's look into our lives and see the doors that can be opened to revival.

1st – God

- Adoration
- Confession
- Thanksgiving
- Supplication
- Bible Study
- Prayer
- Scripture Memory
- Sacrifice
- Service

2nd – Family

- Husbands to wives
- Wives to husbands
- Parents to children
- Children to parents

3rd – Church

- Attendance
- Fellowship
- Service
- Growth
- Sacrifice

4th – Work, School, Market Place

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Longsuffering
- Gentleness
- Goodness
- Faith
- Meekness
- Temperance

What is it in your life that has kept you from unlocking the door to personal revival? [ask people to bow heads]

“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat of the good of the land.”

How many of you would say this morning – “I want to eat of the good of the land and experience personal revival in my life, my home, my community, and my church and I will obey God in every area that He has pointed out this morning and everything He points out in the future.” [offer opportunity for time of prayer and counsel]

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:31-32

Attack On The Home

An all-out attack has been leveled on the Home. Never since Noah's day has there been such a total breakdown of family relationships. I believe with all my heart that the salvation of America as a free nation is the Church and the salvation of the Church is the Christian family.

Jesus predicted that the last generation would be "eating and drinking; marrying and giving in marriage" (Matthew 24:38). One million couples will divorce this next year [mid-1970's]. By 1980 the national divorce rate will be 50% or higher. In some American cities the divorce rate is already 100% and climbing. that means that for every marriage there is one divorce. Tens of millions of children are products of broken homes which has led to an all-out rebellion among the young people of America.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "In the last days perilous times shall come; for men shall be...disobedient to parents" (2 Timothy 3:1-2). One secular writer has predicted that the family will not survive the twentieth century. Therefore, today I want to share with you a "Family Survival Kit." I want us to look to God's Word and see His formula for survival of the home.

It would take hundreds of seminars to even begin to unfold God's principles for successful living, but I would like to lay down some of the basics that must be alive in our lives for prosperity to visit our homes.

Psalm 1 tells us that the righteous man will prosper "whatsoever he doeth." If you and I are to be prosperous in raising our families, we must do whatever God asks of us. There can be no success outside of obedience to "every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Revelation 2

Turn to Revelation 2:1-5

"Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

The Ephesian Church was an extremely active church, not unlike many of our churches today.

[indepth about active points]

But this church and its families had a great problem ... they had left their first love.

[indepth about losing love]

Notice that Christ promised blessing upon that church and its members if they did two things: "repent, and do the first works."

While preparing this message, I sensed the Lord speaking to me about the two principles in verse 5. The principles there are the answer to all of the problems of the Church, all of the problems of the family, all of the problems of the individual Christian. The principles are:

Repentance --- "attitude of the heart"

Doing the first works --- "behavior of the life"

For our nation to survive, for our Church to survive, for our families to survive, we must have the right heart attitude and the right behavior of life.

"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen."

[indepth about their falling out of love with God and losing the right heart attitude]

The second thing that Christ commanded us to do was to "do the first works." I asked God for insight into what He meant by "the first works" and felt impressed with three basic works or priorities that were lying dormant in the lives of the Ephesians.

1. The priority of the family
2. The priority of the church
3. The priority of the purpose

"Do the first works" --- have the right behavior of life

Ephesians 5

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." Ephesians 5:25

[indepth about love .. indepth about husband being provider, protector and priest]

"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."
Ephesians 5:21-22

[indepth about submission]

Parents ... "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

[indepth about raising children --- we teach by saying what is right and by doing what is right]

Attack On The Church

Jesus said – “I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18)

The Apostle Paul wrote that we are “of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone” (Ephesians 2:19-20).

Paul wrote Timothy – “that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15).

[indepth about honor for the Church]

As for the responsibility to ministers of the Gospel, here is what Paul had to say –

“That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.” 1 Corinthians 16:16

“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake.” 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.” 1 Timothy 5:17

“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.” Hebrews 13:7

The Purpose

Ephesians 1:4 reads – “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”

[indepth about God’s purpose for His children]

“... let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” 2 Corinthians 7:1

“Be ye holy; for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:16

“... what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.” 2 Peter 3:11

“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8

“Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.” 1 Timothy 1:5

“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.” 1 Peter 1:22

What do we have before us today? An important decision to make:

Repent, and do the first works “or else”

“I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place.” Revelation 2:5

Repent — Attitude of the heart

Doing the first works — Behavior of the life

"And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread. And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually." II Kings 4:8-9

The most needed person in the Church today is a man or woman of God.

This "great" woman was probably a very influential woman in her community. She watched Elisha day after day as he went about working in the service of the Lord; much like scores of unsaved people in this community watch us day after day as we go about our lives at home, work and play.

This woman said of Elisha - "I perceive that this is an holy man of God." What do people say about us day after day? Would our co-workers, friends, and neighbors say of us, "I perceive that this is an holy man or woman of God?"

The Church is in desperate condition today and in great need of revival. The Church needs to be brought back to life and the ones to bring revival are those who are "men and women of God!"

Reasons Why

I believe there are three basic reasons why there are so few men and women of God in the Church today:

Guile

The first step to practical holiness is freedom from all guile and hypocrisy (John 1:47). How many would say, "There has been a time or times in my life when I tried to give a better impression of myself to others than was really the cause"? This is guile. Guile will hinder our prayers, genuine revival from God, and fellowship with other Christians.

Hypocrisy is one of the major reasons that millions of people are kept away from the Church. Beneath an outward facade of spirituality by church members are slimy pits of evil.

Turn to Luke 12: 1 - "In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."

Turn to Titus 1:15-16 - "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."

Turn to 1 John 3:18 - " My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

Let me give you one example of God's response to guile among His children -

"But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things." Acts 5:1-11

Can the Lord say of us, "Behold a man or woman indeed in whom is no guile"?

Lack of Discipline

The second reason for the lack of holiness in our churches is a lack of discipline.

Matthew 5:29 - Amplified Version

Romans 6:6 - Amplified Version

Romans 8:13 - Amplified Version

Romans 13:14 - Amplified Version

Galatians 5:26 - Amplified Version

Colossians 3:5-14 - Amplified Version

1 Peter 4:1-2 - Amplified Version

We must discipline our eyes to what they look at and read. The psalmist prayed, "Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity."

We must discipline our ears to listen to the right kind of conversations and music. We must be attuned to God's voice and away from gossip and slander.

We must control our tongues to be under the control of the Holy Spirit. The Apostle James wrote, "The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell...and if any offend not in word, the same is a mature man, and able to bridle the whole body."

Time Spent

A third reason for the general lack of godly men and women in the Church is the fact that we do not spend time alone with the Holy One. No man or woman can be holy and godly unless they determine that the most important thing in life is to spend time with God.

Sometimes we are so busy for God that we do not have enough time to spend with God. Our carnal minds and desires stem invariably from the fact that we spend too little time in the presence of God and too much time in the presence of the television set.

A great man of God once said, "We must know what it is to wait long hours in God's presence seeing His glory, hearing His voice, and being transformed into His likeness."

What the Bible teaches about Praise

We now look at six reasons for your church to praise the Lord.

(Reason 1) For being seated at our Father's table.

Of salvation

Of abundant living

Of blessed fellowship

With God: The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit

With our brothers and sisters in Christ

(Reason 2) For our families

For husbands and fathers

For wives and mothers

For children

For grandparents

(Reason 3) For our church

Teaching the fundamental truths and life-changing principles of the Word of God

Worshipping God in spirit and truth

(Reason 4) For our pastor

His love

His dedication

His standards

His decisions

(Reason 5) For our nation

Religious freedom

Great heritage

Exciting future

(Reason 6) For the coming revival

In hearts

In families

In churches

In communities

In nations

[Thank you for reading these teaching notes from 40 years ago. My prayer is they will be a blessing to you and your ministry.]

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