



REVIVAL

PASTOR BLAKE GIDEON

REVIVAL

Dr. Blake Gideon

Copyright © 2023 by Edmond's First Baptist Church
FBCedmond.org

INTRODUCTION

“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.” -Romans 11:36

The air was thick with anticipation as the crowd gathered beneath the towering tent. The heat of the flames licked at their faces, casting flickering shadows across the sea of faces. They had come from far and wide, drawn by the promise of revival - a return to the days of old, when the spirit moved freely and miracles were commonplace. The preacher stepped forward, his eyes blazing with a fierce intensity. He raised his hands to the sky, and the flames seemed to leap higher in response. “Welcome,” he thundered, “to the fire of revival!” And with those words, the crowd erupted into cheers and cries of joy; this was no ordinary gathering - this was a meeting of the faithful, coming together to burn away the darkness and usher in a new era of light.

What does revival truly mean, and how can it be experienced in our modern world?

There's something truly special about old-time revivals. The sense of community and togetherness that comes from gathering with others to worship and praise is unlike anything else. There's just something so timeless

and meaningful about coming together to celebrate our faith, singing, testimonies, and good gospel preaching. Old-time revivals can bring people together like nothing else can.

In a world amid chaos and turmoil, one thing can bring hope and restoration: revival. It's a word that carries weight and power, evoking images of transformation and renewal. But what does revival truly mean, and how can it be experienced in our modern world? In this booklet, we'll explore biblical and practical applications of revival.

WHAT IS REVIVAL?

The answer to that question depends on who you ask. Some might define revival as a religious movement that seeks to renew the faith of believers and bring non-believers into the fold. Others might see it as a social movement that seeks to bring about change in society.

Regardless of how you define it, there is no denying that revival has played an important role in many historical and cultural movements worldwide. From the Great Awakenings in colonial America to the Jesus Movement of the 1960s and 70s, revival has been a powerful force for change and transformation.

REVIVAL

At its core, revival is about renewal and transformation. It is about taking something stale or stagnant and God breathing new life into it. This might mean renewing one's faith in God, revitalizing a church or community, or bringing new ideas and perspectives to the forefront of a culture or society.

Revival is not a one-time event but a process that unfolds over time. It requires repentance, dedication, commitment, and cannot happen without change and transformation. It is not always easy, but it is always worth it.

REVIVAL & THE NEED OF THE CHURCH

Revival is the need of every Church; this is true for several reasons. One possibility is that the Church may have become stagnant in its growth and outreach efforts. Perhaps the congregation lacks enthusiasm or motivation to actively engage with the community and spread the gospel message.

The Church may have become stagnant in its growth and outreach efforts.

Internal conflicts or issues might be addressed to unify the Church and create a stronger sense of fellowship. Identifying the root causes of potential problems is essential, and working towards finding solutions will help the Church thrive and grow positively.

Identifying the root causes of potential problems is essential

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF REVIVAL

Revival is a powerful force that many believers have experienced throughout history. In the Bible, several examples of revival demonstrate the transformative power of God's love and grace.

One of the most famous examples of revival in the Bible is the story of the prophet Elijah. In 1 Kings 18, Elijah challenges the prophets of the false god Baal to a contest on Mount Carmel. Despite overwhelming odds, Elijah trusts in God and calls upon Him to send fire down from heaven. God answers Elijah's prayer, and the Israelites turn back to the Lord in repentance.

REVIVAL

Another example of revival in the Bible is found in the book of Jonah. God sends Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh, a wicked and idolatrous people. Despite Jonah's initial reluctance, the people of Nineveh listen to his message and turn to God in repentance. God responds to their repentance with mercy and forgiveness.

The book of Acts also records several early Church revival instances. In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples at Pentecost, and they are filled with a boldness to preach the Gospel. As a result, many people come to faith in Jesus Christ and are baptized.

In Acts 4, the apostles are arrested and brought before the religious leaders for preaching about Jesus. Despite the threat of persecution, the apostles continue to preach and pray for boldness. God answers their prayer, and the Church grows even stronger.

These examples of revival in the Bible demonstrate God's power to transform lives and communities through His love and grace. As believers, we can trust in God's faithfulness and seek His face for revival in our own lives and in the world around us.

REVIVAL AND ITS IMPACT ON LOSTNESS

Revival has the power to make a significant impact on lostness. When people experience a genuine revival, they are transformed from the inside out. Their hearts are set ablaze with a passion for God and a desire to share His love with others. This passion is contagious and can spread like wildfire throughout a community. Revival

can tremendously impact lostness. It can transform hearts, bring people back to the faith, unite communities, and inspire action. If we want to see a world transformed by Christ's love, we must pray for revival and be willing to allow God to work in and through us to bring it about.

Hearts are set ablaze with a passion for God and a desire to share His love with others

Revival will bring people back to the faith. Many people have drifted away from God over the years and need a spiritual awakening to get them back.

Revival can catalyze spiritual awakening, helping people to discover true saving faith and find a renewed sense of purpose and direction.

REVIVAL

Revival can help break down barriers between different groups. When people come together to seek God, they are united in their love for Him, regardless of their background, race, or social status. This unity can help to bridge divides and foster a sense of community that can have a lasting impact on lostness. Unity in the

Unity in the church
is a witness to the
world of Christ love.

church is a witness to the world of Christ love.
Revival can inspire people to take action. When people are on fire for God, they are motivated to do something about the world's problems.

They are moved to reach out to those who are hurting, to share the love of Christ with those who are lost, and to make a difference in the lives of others.

REVIVAL AND THE MODERN CHURCH

As a Christian, I believe that the modern Church is in dire need of revival. There are many reasons for this, but perhaps the most important is that we have lost sight of our purpose. Instead of being a shining light in the darkness, the Church has become just another institution, concerned more with maintaining its power and influence than with spreading the message of Christ.

Another critical reason the modern Church needs revival is that we have become complacent. We have become so comfortable in our little worlds that we have forgotten what it means to follow Jesus. We must remember that we are called to be a people of action, not just words.

Perhaps the most pressing reason the modern Church needs revival is that we have lost our passion for God. We have become so focused on the things of this world that we have forgotten that

our true home is in Heaven. We have forgotten that our ultimate goal is not success, wealth, or power but rather to live in a way that pleases God and brings glory to His name.

We are called to be a people of action, not just words.

So, what can we do to position ourselves to experience God sent revival in the modern Church? First and foremost, we must return to the Word of God. We must study, meditate on, and allow it to transform us from the inside out. We must also be willing to step out of our comfort zones and be bold for Christ, sharing His message with those around us.

REVIVAL

Ultimately, revival in the modern Church will require a willingness to repent and return to God. It will require a willingness to put aside our desires and ambitions and seek the Kingdom of God first. If we are willing to do these things, I genuinely believe that the modern Church can experience a revival that will transform our lives and the community.

REVIVAL & THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

Prayer is an integral part of any religious practice and plays a crucial role in God sending revival. Revival is an awakening of faith, a renewal of spiritual hunger, and a transformation of the heart and mind. The Holy Spirit movement empowers believers to live out their faith, share the gospel, and make disciples.

Prayer is the key that unlocks the door to revival.

Through prayer, we connect with God, seek His will, and invite Him to work in our lives and our world. When we pray for revival, we are asking God to pour out His Spirit, to awaken the Church, and to bring about a transformation in our communities and our world.

Prayer is not just a religious duty or a ritualistic practice. It is a personal encounter with God, a conversation with the Creator of the universe, a moment of intimacy with the Divine. When we pray, we are opening ourselves up to the power of God, to His love, His grace, His mercy, and His wisdom.

Prayer is also a communal practice. We do it together as a church, as a body of Christ, as a community of believers. When we pray together, we are united in our faith, hope, and love for God and one another. We are lifting up our voices in worship, thanksgiving, confession, petition, and intercession.

Prayer is the fuel that drives revival.

It is the foundation upon which revival is built. Without prayer, revival cannot happen. But with prayer, anything is possible. When we pray for revival, we are aligning ourselves with God's will and preparing ourselves to be vessels of His grace and power.

“Pray without ceasing.”
1 Thessalonians 5:17

REVIVAL

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

Philippians 4:6

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.”

Matthew 21:22

“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”

Matthew 6:6

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”

John 15:7

“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Matthew 26:41

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

James 5:16

“Praying always with all prayer and application in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

Ephesians 6:18

REVIVAL AND THE BIBLE

It is a time when people turn away from their sinful ways and seek to live a pleasing life unto God. The Bible has much to say about revival; many verses speak to this topic.

Revival is a concept that is central to the teachings of the Bible.

One of the most well-known verses about revival is found in 2 Chronicles 7:14.

¹⁴if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

This verse tells us that if we humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face, and turn from our wicked ways, then God will hear us, forgive us, and heal our land. This verse shows us that revival is a work of God's Spirit, and that it is something we need to seek actively.

Another verse that speaks to the concept of revival is Isaiah 57:15.

*¹⁵For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:*

*"I dwell in the high and holy place,
and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly,
and to revive the heart of the contrite. (Isaiah 57:15)*

This verse tells us that God dwells with those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and that He revives the spirit of the lowly and the heart of the contrite. This verse shows us that revival is something that comes from without, a sovereign act of God, and it results in our willingness to humble ourselves before God.

*⁶Will you not revive us again, that your
people may rejoice in you? (Psalm 85:6)*

Psalm 85:6 is another verse that speaks to the concept of revival. This verse tells us that God will revive and restore

us if we turn to Him, contingent upon our repentance and willingness to turn away from our sinful ways.

*²⁸ “And it shall come to pass afterward,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.*

*²⁹ Even on the male and female servants in those
days I will pour out my Spirit. (Joel 2:28-29)*

Finally, Joel 2:28-29 is a powerful passage that speaks to revival. This passage tells us that in the last days, God will pour out His Spirit on all people, and they will prophesy, dream, and see visions. This passage shows us that revival is a work of God's Spirit, and that it is something He will bring about in His own time.

The Bible has a lot to say about revival. It is a time when people turn away from their sinful ways and seek to live a pleasing life unto God.

Revival is a work of God's Spirit, which we must actively pursue. Through repentance, humility, and a willingness to turn away

from our sinful ways, we can experience the revival that God has promised us. So, let us pray for revival. Let us

Revival is a work of God's Spirit, which we must actively pursue.

seek God with all our hearts and invite Him to work in our lives and our world. Let us believe that He can do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us. And let us trust that He will send revival, in His time and in His way, for His glory and the salvation of souls.

PREPARING FOR REVIVAL

Preparing for God to send revival is necessary for any church that desires to experience spiritual growth and transformation.

The first step in this process is to recognize the need for revival and to be willing to pursue it with all your heart; this requires a deep sense of humility, repentance, and a commitment to prayer and fasting.

The second step is to examine the state of the Church and identify areas that need improvement; this can involve assessing the quality of the preaching, worship, and other aspects of church life. It may also involve addressing conflicts or issues hindering the Church from experiencing true unity and harmony. It is important to be willing to make the necessary changes to ensure that the Church is prepared to receive the blessings of revival.

Another key aspect of preparing for revival is cultivating a sense of expectation and faith; this means believing that God is able and willing to bring about a spiritual awakening in the Church and community. It also means being open to the leading of the

Holy Spirit and being ready to step out of our comfort zones to pursue new opportunities for ministry and outreach. It is vital to maintain a spirit of prayer and intercession while

preparing for revival. This means praying for the Church, its leaders, its members, the community, and the world. It means seeking God's will and direction in all we do and submitting ourselves to His plans and purposes.

It is vital to maintain a spirit of prayer and intercession while preparing for revival.

Preparing for God to send revival requires a deep sense of humility, a willingness to make changes, expectation and faith, and a commitment to prayer and intercession. May we be faithful in pursuing these things, and may God grant us the blessing of revival in our churches and communities.

REVIVAL AND HISTORY

As previously stated, revival is a powerful force that has been present throughout human history. It has been the driving force behind many of the most significant movements and changes that have shaped our world.

From religious revivals to political revolutions, the power of revival has been felt in every corner of the globe.

Revival played a key role in many of the greatest movements of human history, from the rise of Christianity to the American Civil Rights movement. Revival has been the driving force behind countless social, political, and cultural transformations, and it continues to be a powerful force for change today.

Despite its many successes, revival has faced its fair share of challenges and setbacks. There have been times when the forces of repression and reaction have sought to stamp out the flames of revival, and there have been moments of bitter conflict and struggle. However, the power of revival has endured, and it continues to inspire and motivate people worldwide to fight for what they believe in.

As we look to the future, it is clear that revival will continue to play a vital role in shaping the course of

human history. Whether in the form of religious revival, political revolution, or cultural awakening, the power of revival will continue to inspire and motivate us to strive for a better world and most importantly bring glory to God. So let us embrace the power of revival and work together to build a brighter future for ourselves and generations.

REVIVAL AND THE GLORY OF GOD

When revival occurs, people are awakened to the reality of God's love and the power of His presence. They are filled with awe and wonder, recognizing that He is truly worthy of all honor and praise. As they seek Him with a pure heart, they begin to experience the fullness of His grace and the depth of His love.

Revival is about the
glory of God and
honoring Him with
our lives.

Revival brings glory to God by impacting communities and nations. As people turn to Him in repentance and seek His will, they begin to live out the values of His kingdom. They love

their neighbors, care for the poor, and seek justice for the oppressed. They become agents of change, transforming their communities and bringing hope to hurting people. Revival brings glory to God because it reflects

REVIVAL

His character. He is a God of love and mercy, who desires to restore all things to their original purpose. When revival occurs, God works, bringing new life and hope to a broken world. It is a testimony to His faithfulness and His desire to see His people flourish.

In the end, revival is about the glory of God and honoring Him with our lives. As we seek Him with all our hearts, we become vessels of His love and grace, shining His light in a dark world. May we always be willing to surrender to Him, so that we might experience the fullness of His presence and bring glory to His name.

REVIVAL AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

I've always been fascinated by the concept of revival. There's something about the idea of a spiritual awakening that is awe-inspiring. God intervenes powerfully, stirring hearts and minds to seek Him freshly and passionately.

I've studied revival over the years, I've realized that a more profound truth underlies this phenomenon. It's the reality of God's sovereignty.

You see, revival is something other than what we can manufacture or control. It's not the result of clever strategies or well-crafted programs. Instead, it's a work of God's Spirit, who moves in mysterious and unpredictable ways.

This is why the sovereignty of God is so crucial when it comes to revival. We can't make revival happen. All we can do is prepare ourselves and our communities for the moment when God chooses to act in our midst.

Of course, this doesn't mean we sit back and do nothing. On the contrary, we have an essential role in preparing the soil of our hearts and communities for the seeds of revival. We must cultivate a spirit of prayer, repentance, and humility, recognizing our need for God's grace and power. But ultimately, revival is in God's hands. He alone knows the perfect timing and circumstances for a spiritual awakening. And when He chooses to move, nothing can stand in His way.

God alone knows the perfect timing and circumstances for a spiritual awakening

This is both a humbling and a comforting truth. It reminds us that we are not in control and must rely on God's wisdom and power, but it also assures us that when we seek Him with all our hearts, He will hear us and respond perfectly.

So let us pray for revival and prepare ourselves and our communities for the day when God chooses to act. Let us trust in His sovereignty, knowing that He who began a good work in us will continue until the day of Christ.

BRIEF PRAYERS ON REVIVAL FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139:23-24*

A prayer for revival doesn't have to be lengthy, especially when it comes directly from God's Word. Pray these verses from Psalm 139 for personal revival:

*²³Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.*

*²⁴Point out anything in me that offends you,
and lead me along the path of
everlasting life. (Psalm 139:23-24 NLT)*

Psalm 42:1-6a*

This longer prayer for personal revival uses verses from Psalm 42. Remember that short or long, what matters to God is the state of our hearts, not our word count:

*¹As the deer longs for streams of water,
so I long for you, O God. ²I thirst for God,
the living God. When can I go and
stand before him? ³Day and night I have
only tears for food, while my enemies
continually taunt me, saying,
'Where is this God of yours?'*

⁴My heart is breaking as I remember how it used to be: I walked among the crowds of worshipers, leading a great procession to the house of God, singing for joy and giving thanks amid the sound of a great celebration! ⁵Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and my God! Now I am deeply discouraged, but I will remember you! (Psalm 42:1-6a NLT)

PRAYERS FOR REVIVAL PATTERNED ON SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 51:1-10

We can use the Psalmist's words as a pattern, paraphrasing and praying in our own words such as this prayer based on Psalm 51:

Father, have mercy on me. Your love never fails. In your compassion, remove the stain of my sins. Wash me clean and purify my heart from all sin. I am haunted by my rebellion and disobedience against You. I confess my sins to you now and agree that I deserve Your judgement. I am a sinner but because of Jesus Christ, I know You forgive me. Purify my heart. Make me clean, and my heart will be made new.

Restore the joy of my salvation! Let me turn away from my sin. Create a clean heart in me, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Daniel 9:4-6, 9-10, 18-19

Daniel prayed a confessional prayer on behalf of his people, and we can use it as a pattern to offer a prayer of corporate confession:

Father God, You are our Lord. How great and awesome are You, God! Your love is unfailing, and You keep your promises. We have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands. We have wandered from our initial obedience and we've allowed our love to grow cold. We have stopped listening to Your Word with hearts ready to obey. But you are merciful and forgiving. Father God, hear us. See us in our need for Your mercy and grace. See how the ministry of our congregation lies in ruins. We know we don't deserve Your help. We come not in our own name, but boldly in the name of Jesus. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins. Listen and act. Do not delay to awaken our hearts and make our congregation love You and live for You as we are called to do. In the name of Jesus, we pray, amen.

Lamentations 3:17-24

Don't be afraid to cry out to God from a place of sadness or grief. Lamenting the state of our hearts, our congregations, or our nation can be the starting place of repentance and revival.

Prayers of lament may be punctuated with silence. Don't be afraid of silence in prayer. There are times when we are without words and the Holy Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8:26).

Pray this prayer of lament based on Lamentations 3:

Father, I feel no peace and I've forgotten what it is to be joyful and prosperous. I feel as if all the goodness is gone from my life, everything I'd hoped to receive from You. I've been wandering and afflicted. I have experienced bitterness and pain. My soul is heavy and sad because of my sin and the sinful state of those around me. And yet, I know there is still hope. I know that Your love is so great, I won't be overtaken by this fallen world. Your love never fails. Your compassion is new every day. Great is Your faithfulness! You are my portion in this life. I will wait humbly for Your deliverance, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

HISTORICAL PRAYERS FOR REVIVAL

Charles Spurgeon's Prayer for Holiness

The Reverend Charles Spurgeon was famous for his preaching and his praying. Here is a portion of his prayer for holiness we can pray for our own revival.

“We adore Thee because Thou art holy and we love Thee for Thine infinite perfection. For now, we sigh and cry after holiness ourselves. Sanctify us wholly, spirit, soul, and body. Lord, we mourn over the sins of our past life and our present shortcomings. We bless Thee Thou hast forgiven us. We are reconciled to Thee by the death of Thy Son. There are many who know that they have been washed and that He that beareth away sin has borne their sin away. These are they who now cry to Thee to be delivered from the power of sin, to be delivered from the power of temptation without, but especially from indwelling sin within.”

Rev. Billy Graham's prayer

Billy Graham prayed this prayer for our nation at the 1997 inauguration of President Clinton.

“Lord... remind us today that You have shown us what is good in what You require of us; to do justly, to love mercy

and to walk humbly with our God. We ask that as a people, we may humble ourselves before You and seek Your will for our lives and for this great nation. Help us in our nation to work as never before to strengthen our families and to give our children hope and a moral foundation for the future. So may our desire be to serve You, and in so doing, serve one another. This we pray in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

PRAVERS FOR REVIVAL FROM THE HEART

A Simple and Bold Prayer

God loves to hear His people pray what is on our hearts. Hebrews 4:16 assures us because of Christ, we can pray boldly, with confidence.

“Father, thank you for loving us so much You sent Your only Son, Jesus to die for us and rise to life eternal. Thank you for your Holy Spirit. We acknowledge that we are sinners and that we rely on Jesus for salvation and eternal life. We confess we have fallen short of our calling in Christ and have wandered from our first love. Forgive us, in Jesus’ name. It is in His name alone we come boldly to ask for a fresh outpouring of Your Spirit. Revive our hearts. Renew our spirits. Restore our joy. Refresh our zeal to love and serve the world You came to save. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

A Prayer for Churchwide Revival

Revival begins in individual hearts, but our longing is to see it spread throughout the church. We can pray for corporate revival from our hearts.

“Lord, we humbly seek Your forgiveness and Your mercy. We have sinned against You and wandered far from Your ways. We’ve failed to love, obey, offer others the forgiveness we’ve received and the mercy we’ve been shown. We repent of our sins. We return to You seeking revival, renewal, and restoration. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and let our lives and our relationships reflect Jesus Christ. Revive us, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

*“For from Him and through Him and to
Him are all things. To Him be glory forever*

* <https://www.christianity.com/bible/niv/psalm/139-23-24>



EDMOND'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FBCEDMOND.ORG