

Revive Us Again

Psalm 85:4 – 9

I. Intro

- A. Passage written possibly after Israelites freedom from Babylonian captivity; some have dated this to earlier time, possibly after defeat of Philistines – would make sense because of David's dealings with Philistines beginning with Goliath
- B. Psalmist of passage realizes the significance of God's forgiveness; knows what led to this period of captivity – rebellion, disobedience to God
- C. **v. 2**: ... *the iniquity of your people* – use of two significant Hebrew words for iniquity
 - i. **1** – idea of weight pressing down on the nation which God's mercy lifts off and takes away
 - ii. **2** – idea of hideous stain and foulness which God's mercy hides so it's no longer an offense to heaven
- D. Charles Spurgeon quote on God's forgiveness and removal of sin: *All of it, every spot and wrinkle, the veil of love has covered it all. Sin has been divinely put out of sight*
- E. Backdrop for this passage: **READ Psalm 85:4 – 9**

II. Requirements for Revival

- A. **1** - Focus Must Be on Him, not on Us
 - i. Many times the attitude for experiencing revival, restoration is – we just need it; faith faltering, motivation is slipping, energy level is dropping, excitement is lost
 - ii. Not so much about what is happening but about what's not happening – most of the time what's not happening is our focus isn't on the Lord but the focus is on us
 - iii. How many times in passage is reference about God, not the Psalmist or God's people
 - a) *you, your, he, his*
 - iv. For revival, restoration of the Spirit of the Lord to take place in our hearts and in the church we must focus our attention on who God is not on where we are, where we've been, what we need
- B. **2 – v. 4b, 5**: We must seek Him with repentant hearts – earnestly desire His forgiveness for failing Him; understanding God never fails us, we are the ones that always are failing Him
 - i. When Jesus died on the cross, that provision for forgiveness was made – was completely made
 - ii. All we have to do is humbly confess our failures, our sin against God and against others and accept that forgiveness

- iii. **Don't have to ask for it as if God will then decide whether He grants it or not – it's always available to be received, we just have to accept it**
 - iv. **v. 1 – 3: The Psalmist realized this – all in past tense**
 - v. **v. 4 – 7: Psalmist saying ... *Lord, grant your mercy and pardon to us once again – do it again, Lord***
- C. 3 - v. 6: All for God's glory**
- i. **Don't rejoice in good preaching or good music**
 - ii. **Don't rejoice in numbers coming, or even number of decisions**
 - iii. **Don't rejoice in end results**
 - iv. **Rejoice in the Lord; Paul to believers in Philippi - Philippians 4:4 (NIV)**
 - ⁴ **Rejoice in the Lord **always**. I will say it again: Rejoice!**
 - a) **That's problem with too many Christians – only rejoice when things are good; not in times of struggle, despair, sorrow**
 - b) **We don't just cry out to God ... *Revive, restore us again* when we're moping, dragging around but at the start of each and every day ... *Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS***
 - v. **That should be the only reason pursuing restoration and revival – to bring God all the glory**
- D. 4 – v. 8: We must listen to Him**
- i. **Question: How many churches have time of revival because of time of year – it's fall so we need a revival, it's springtime so it's time for revival**
 - ii. **I believe we've gotten away from letting the Lord lead us into revival; convicting our hearts we need to refocus; how can you hear God speaking if you're not listening and how can you listen if you're not praying – praying is a two-way communication, not one-way**
 - iii. **Shouldn't be praying for revival, restoration just during certain times of the year; just as we are to *rejoice in the Lord always*, we are to *pray without ceasing* and part of our praying should be continually seeking revival and restoration in our own lives first, then in the body**
 - iv. **Pray for revival when we remember what God has done in the past; pray for revival when we sense we're under the cloud of God's displeasure**
 - v. **As we pray for our own personal revival, we also pray for revival of our own church, we pray for revival in other churches in community, we pray for revival in the community in general**
 - vi. **We must listen and yield to the moving of the Holy Spirit and surrender to His leading and moving us to restoration, moving the church to restoration – and this can happen anytime, and I believe could very well be happening right now**

- vii. **Spurgeon quote:** *I will be silent. I have spoken to him; now I will hear what his answer is. I will hold my ear attentive to listen to his voice. O my dear hearers, when you are willing to hear God, there are good times coming to you!*

III. Results of Revival

A. **1 - v. 7:** Greater experience of God's love; **Question:** How many would like to have a greater experience of the love of God than you have now?

- i. Website blog call "Recklessly Alive" by Sam Eaton:

Some days I wake up completely alive with God's love, sun warm on my face, fully inspired to destroy the Goliath's of our broken world.

Some days I wake up empty and alone, arctic winds frosting my body through the open window, already raising my white flag to a broken world.

This has been a week of the latter scenario.

There is a stereotype out there that true Christians must look like the greeters at Disney World -they must be exuberantly peppy all the time because "JESUS LOVES ME! YAY!YAY!YAY!" I was not designed this way. While I work everyday to give my heart to God, on a semi-regular basis I find myself in a place of discouragement. And in that place I feel seriously guilty about my inability to answer this probing question: Why doesn't God's love feel like enough today?

- ii. **Question:** Is God's love not feeling like enough for you today?

B. **2 - v. 7:** Salvation

- i. Salvation is not just a one-time event; there's an initial salvation – conversion experience, then there's a continual salvation work that takes place in life of every believer

- ii. **Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV)**

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to **work out your salvation with fear and trembling,**

¹³ for **it is God who works in you** to will and to act according to his good purpose.

- iii. **Continual salvation work as our minds and thoughts are fixed on the Lord; continual salvation work done by the work of the Holy Spirit present within us; but no where is there the indication or inference that salvation can be lost**

iv. **Philippians 1:6 (NIV)**

⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

C. **3 – v. 8: Promise of Peace**

i. **Isaiah 26:3 (NIV)**

³ You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.

ii. **Jesus Himself said: John 14:27 (NIV)**

²⁷ [My] Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

IV. Close

- A. **Question:** Is your life in need of a revival today? If there's going to be a restoration and revival in hearts and lives of people in this church and in this community it has to begin with each of us individually
- B. Let's begin today as people and as the church to: focus wholly, completely on Him not on ourselves; come before Him with repentant and humble hearts; seek to bring Him only glory and honor; let's listen and be sensitive to the conviction and moving of God's Spirit toward revival
- C. **Question:** How can we pass up a greater experiencing of His love in us and among us? How can we not want a continuous working of His salvation in us and among us? How can we not long for His peace within us and within this church?