

Why We Need Revival

The Well Church Ministries

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Main Verse:

2 Chronicles 7:13-15 (NIV)

1 Introduction

- How many people would describe the United States today as a godly Nation?
- How many people would **describe** the United States today as a **Christian nation**?
- How many believe the United States is **drifting** further and **further away from Christianity**?

1.1 Current Trends

- **General Social Survey** of the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center
- They tracked drops in **religious affiliation** and **church attendance** for > 40 years
 - **21%** of adults – No religious affiliation (2014)
 - **8%** in 1990
 - **5%** in 1972
- Pew Research –

Alan Cooperman, Pew's director of religious research, said it's indisputable that the number of self-identified Christians is declining in the U.S.

- There is definitely a decline in
 - Morales
 - Ethics
 - Christianity
- **Why ?** – A couple of thoughts

A. **Media** – Very liberal views in many cases

B. **Church** – Inward focused instead of Outward focused

C. **Internet** – Has become the place to find answers

a. Many places younger generations become educated
by incorrect information.

D. Revival **begins** with the **church** – Hunger for God

E. Let's start by answering this question:

a. What is True Revival?

2 Revival History

5 Major Revivals Recorded in the 20th century

1. 1904

2. 1906

3. 1909

4. 1930

5. 1970

A. Each revival came from a time when **morals** were on a
serious decline.

B. **Chaos described** each **period before revival.**

C. **The lands** were **filled** with **all kinds** of **godlessness**

D. The **prince** of this **world** was **having** a **field day!!!!**

E. When we think of the **last recorded awakening, 1970's,**
what was **taking place** in the **U.S.** prior to this **time?**

History.com

The Culture of the 60's

In the second half of the decade, young people began to revolt against the conservative norms of the time, as well as remove themselves from mainstream liberalism, in particular the high level of materialism, which was so common during the era.

This created a "counterculture" that sparked a social revolution throughout much of the Western world.

It began in the United States as a reaction against the conservatism and social conformity of the 1950s, and the US government's extensive military intervention in Vietnam.

The youth involved in the popular social aspects of the movement became known as hippies.

These groups created a movement toward liberation in society, including the sexual revolution, questioning authority and government, and demanding more freedoms and rights for women and minorities.

The Underground Press, a widespread, eclectic collection of newspapers served as a unifying medium for the counterculture.

The movement was also marked by the first widespread, socially accepted drug use (including LSD and marijuana) and psychedelic music.

Crime

The 1960s was also associated with a large increase in crime and urban unrest of all types.

Between 1960 and 1969 reported incidences of violent crime per 100,000 people in the United

States nearly doubled and have yet to return to the levels of the early 1960s.

Large riots broke out in many cities, such as Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York City, Newark, Washington, D.C. and Oakland.

By the end of the decade, politicians such as Richard Nixon and George Wallace campaigned on restoring law and order to a nation troubled with the new unrest.

3 What is true revival?

- We have some **faulty ideas** about **what revival** is.

A. Revival is **a week** that's been set aside for **special preaching**

B. It's a time for the **rest of the community** to get to **come** to our **church**.

C. It's a **crusade** that takes **place** inside of **tents**

3.1 But what is true revival?

A. What we've just described **is not true revival**.

B. It's what they used to call "**extended meetings**."

C. **True revival** is a **sovereign act** of a sovereign God.

D. **True revival** takes place when the **Holy Spirit** revives God's people.

- When someone **nearly drowns**, they are pulled out of the water and “**revived**.”

a. They **were near death**, but by a **miraculous act**, their **life was restored**.

b. That is **what true revival does** for the people of God.

3.2 Lethargic Christians

A. **Christians** sometimes get into a **lethargic state**.

B. They’ve **lost** their **joy** of **salvation**.

C. They have **no drive** to **make a difference** anymore.

D. They go through the **motions** of **life**.

E. **Sin no longer** seems so **bad**.

F. They **become no different** than the **world** around them.

G. They **no longer** have any **regard** for the **things** of **God**.

H. They **no longer** have any **regard** for the **will** of **God**.

I. There is nothing more **miserable** than a **Christian out** of the **will** of **God**.

3.3 Resuscitation

A. In a true revival, **God sends** the **Holy Spirit** to **resuscitate** His people.

B. Revival Means –

a. There is a **strong, overwhelming conviction** of **sin**.

b. There is **brokenness over** the **failure** to **please God**.

c. There is **repentance** by **God's people**.

d. There is a **cry** to **God** for **change**.

3.4 When Revival Comes -

A. There's a **new awareness** of God's **presence**.

B. There is a **fresh spirit** in **God's people**.

C. God's people have **a new hunger** for the **Word** of God and the **things** of **God**.

D. This "**about face**" gains the attention of the people around them.

E. **Lost people** are **saved** as the **Holy Spirit** in **God's people** **spill** over to **them**.

3.5 Our Role

A. **If** true revival is a **sovereign act** of God, **what role** do we play?

- a. God has given us **guidelines** for revival.
 - b. He lays out **conditions** for revival.
 - c. **Do you** truly want to see **revival** in our **country**, in our **church**, and in **your life**?
 - d. We **must meet** God's conditions.
- B. God often asks us to meet certain conditions

Exodus 19:5

5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine

Leviticus 26:3-5 (NIV)

3 "If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, 4 I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees their fruit. 5 Your threshing will continue until grape

harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land

4 What are God's Conditions?

Read 2 Chronicles 7:13–15 (NIV)

13 "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, 14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

4.1 God Gives A Conditional Statement.

- A. If ... Then ... A condition is set.
- B. **When** that **condition** is **met**, then the **results take place**.
- C. If the conditions are **not met**, there is **no result**.
- D. **God set conditions** that we have to **meet before** He sends the **results**.
- E. If we don't meet God's conditions, He won't send the results.
- F. The **burden** is **on us** to meet the conditions.

4.2 GOD'S CONDITIONS

- A. God says "**If MY people**".
- B. God's people **then** was the nation of **Israel**.

C. Today **His people** are us, the **born-again church**.

D. **The people** to meet God's conditions are **the saved, the church**.

E. If we want to see revival come to our church and nation, God says the **church** is **going** to **have** to **change**.

4.3 God's Condition #1: Humble Yourself

A. What is humility?

a. Humility is such a **foreign concept** to us, it's easier to **describe** what **it's not** than what it is.

b. The **opposite** of **pride** and **arrogance**.

c. **Humility** means "to **bend** the **knee**" or "make ourselves **low**."

B. **Who** do we **humble** ourselves **to**?

- a. This passage is all about us being **humble before God**.
- b. We have to bend our knee to God.
- c. We have to lower ourselves before God.
- d. We have to put ourselves **back under** the **Lordship** of Jesus **Christ**.
- e. We have to **give** Him **back** the **throne** of our **hearts**.
- f. We have to **put away** our **pride** and **arrogance** and see we are **nothing** without Him. (John15:5)
- g. **Revival** will **not come** until we **acknowledge Jesus** as just not our **Savior**, **but** also our **Lord**.

4.4 God's Condition #2: Pray

A. **True prayer** is done in **humility**.

B. **Prayer** is an **expression** of our total **dependence** on God.

C. We **ask God** for **revival** because we know **we can't bring** it.

D. We **see the need** for revival and we **cry out** to **God** to **intervene**.

a. **God wants** revival but He **wants us** to **want** revival.

b. I believe **God doesn't want** His people and this **nation** in the **shape** it's in.

c. But I believe **He wants** to see that we want revival, too.

d. He wants to **hear us cry** out for revival.

E. We have to **pray earnestly** for **revival**.

4.5 God's Condition #3: **Seek His Face**

A. Seeking God's face **involves intense prayer**.

B. It's **more** than just **words** with **no substance**.

C. Seeking God's face is **making everything** else **secondary** to **pleading** with **God** for revival.

D. It's like a **child seeking his parent's attention**.

E. **Pleading** with God to **heal** our **hearts** and our **nation**.

6. Realizing that **without** God **doing something**, it **won't get done**.

John 15:5 (NIV)

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

4.6 God's Condition #4: Turn from their Evil Ways

A. This is a **primary condition**.

B. **Words** are **easy**, **action** takes work.

C. In my mind, the **primary reason** we **don't have revival** is the **complacency** of God's people.

D. We **love** the **desires** of the **flesh more** than the **things** of **God**.

E. Test yourselves: **How much** does **God** really **matter** in your life?

a. We have to turn.

F. We have to **repent** of our **complacency**.

G. We have to **see** the **damage** done by our **complacency** and ask **God** to **forgive** us.

H. We have to **turn** to **God**.

I. We have to **start living** for **God**.

5 God's Results (Revival is Sent)

... THEN ...

A. He will **hear** from **Heaven**.

a. He'll **see** that **we're sincere**.

b. He'll see that **we know** we've been **standing** in the **way of revival**.

c. He'll **hear us cry** out for Him **to do** what **only He** can **do, send revival**.

B. .. THEN ... Forgive their Sin

a. He'll break down the walls that hold back revival.

1 John 1:9 New International Version (NIV)

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

b. He'll **cleanse** our **hearts**.

c. He'll **restore** the **joy** of the **church**.

C. .. THEN .. Heal their Land

a. **He'll send revival.**

b. He'll **heal** the **wounds** that have been **caused** by **sin**.

c. He'll **bring** the **lost** to **Him**.

d. He'll **heal** the **land**.

e. He'll **change** this **world**.

5.1 These are big promises.

A. This **would** be **major** in **our world today**.

a. Do you **believe God** is **big enough** to do it?

B. **God's Waiting on us** (v. 15)

a. His eyes are watching to see **what we'll do**.

b. **Will** we **humble ourselves** and **turn from our evil ways**?

C. Throughout every revival, there was **fervent corporate prayer**,

a. fasting,

b. repentance,

c. and seeking.

D. It **takes great sacrifice** and a **sincere desire**.

E. We must **press into the LORD** at **all times** and **cry out** for an **awakening**.

Resources and Sources Used

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/blurring-lines-decline-u-s-christianity-mirrors-larger-trends-n358066>