

The Revivalist

A M I N I S T R Y O F T H E R I V E R ' S E D G E C H U R C H

The earth reels to
and fro like a
drunkard And it
totters like a shack,
For its transgres-
sion is heavy upon
it, And it will fall,
never to rise again.

NAU **Isaiah 24:20**

DO YOU NEED REVIVAL?

So I had the March edition ready to print, and in the midst of a second reformatting of hard drives and switching to Windows 7 it ended up going the way of the grave. That being said, I believe there is more to be said concerning the need for revival, but I think it needs to be a little more personal this month.

It is very easy to be obsessed with the plight of the modern Church and to get so focused on the overwhelming needs of the whole, that we forget the truth that it must begin in our house!

Saint Peter says:

For *it* is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

NAU **1 Peter 4:17**

And I think it safe to say that we must see this as being addressed to each of us as individual members of the body of Christ upon this earth.

It is simply not sufficient for us to pray and devote ourselves to the cause and concern for the Church while ignoring our own decrepit spiritual position! This prayer for revival, this whole question of need must come back around to our own standing before the Lord Almighty!

Are our hands clean? Are we depending upon the blood of Christ by faith to cleanse us? Are we contented with the plate of mediocrity that has been served to us by the religious establishments of our day, or do we hunger for more? Do we actually act upon this hunger?

I cannot expect anything beloved out of anyone else that I will not allow God to do within me. I cannot expect the Church of Jesus Christ

to begin to wholeheartedly pray with fierce fervor for revival until I actually begin to do so. I cannot expect believers to obey the words of the Gospel with a radical devotion until I respond to the same word that I expect them to heed!

We are looking for so very much from the believers of this day, but we must ask ourselves, what are we willing to give, and how much have we hoarded back for ourselves already?

In this grand scheme of revival all things are turned once again to your heart, to my heart, to the heart of the individual believer. My prayer must ultimately bring judgment in my life, correction to my errors, acts to my easy words! It must open wide the doors to the Spirit of God to do His wondrous refining work, otherwise the prayer is nothing more than empty syllables spoken into the wind!

The question of personal need for revival is no small matter, indeed it may be the single most important question that you ever pose to yourself as a believer. If you are not a believer, take heed, for this is what the Christians should be asking:

Does my life resemble the life of Jesus?

Would I fit in well in the Book of Acts?

Am I praying for laborers to go into the harvest, but refusing to speak a word to those that the door is opened to me to speak to?

Do I consider church attendance as enough to keep God happy?

Am I more concerned with His kingdom than I am with my own agenda?

Am I contented with a nice sermon and some pleasant singing?

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DO WE REALLY NEED REVIVAL?

Do you still believe the scriptures mean what they say or have you swallowed the line of liberal theology and political correctness to the point that you now stand with those who see abortions as some convenient right and homosexuality as a birthright?

Beloved, these are the questions we must ask ourselves, and we must gauge our walk in the light of the revelation that is placed before us. You cannot base your need for revival or your lack of need upon your own subjective opinion, but you must look to the word, and open your ears to the voice of the Holy Spirit as He tries to speak to all of us in these last days.

When I look at the word of God I am overwhelmed, and dumbfounded as to how we could have possibly strayed so far away from what they had in those first years after Pentecost, and then I am confronted by the truth of the word that declares that the "glory of this latter house shall be greater than that of the former."

I know that I am called as a simple believer to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, to desire spiritual gifts, to be a conduit for the Spirit of God to manifest Himself among men. You are certainly called to do the same, to continue wading into this river of God's glory until the waters pass over your head!

Where are you standing now in this river that Ezekiel saw so clearly, the great river that flows out from the throne of God? Do you need revival? Just ask yourself where are you standing at in that divine flow from God? Are you ankle deep, giving your 10% and saying your little routine prayers everyday? Maybe you see yourself as being knee deep in the waters as you make an effort to drop hints about your faith to a co-worker or a Facebook friend or classmate. Perhaps you memorized a couple of verses of scripture to prove your point in your next scriptural argument!

My judgment of where you are in the river means little or nothing, but you can rest assured that when you get very deep in that sacred flow, your shadow will begin to leave an impact just like the Apostle Peter's did! I know that something more than the ordinary will flow out of my life if I get deep enough in this current, and beloved if you get deep enough you may become as Jesus prayed, "One, even as we are one."

You can learn so much simply by listening to your own prayers. The believer that begins to get deeper in that blessed river will begin to hear less and less of self in their prayers. Not to say that we don't need to pray for our own needs, because we do, but at some point and time our prayer must become focused on the will of God the Father.

If we listen to Jesus as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane we hear a man who was focused on the will of the Father even if it went against every emotion that He was experiencing, and the logic of His human mind. In the midst of prayer that wrecked His body He found strength to turn away from the natural impulses of that same body to preserve itself!

Are we praying prayers that will endanger our comfortable lives? Are we praying for doors to be opened that we know we really don't want to walk through when they do, or are we praying for our ministries to get bigger and better?

It is that heart that pants aloud for the Lamb to be exalted in the midst of the heathen, the heart that is willing to be utterly broken to reveal the Risen Lord, it is this heart that knows that revival is not a catch phrase but a necessity!

Honestly folks I think it is safe to say that the vast majority of us really desire to meet someone that is truly sold out to Jesus Christ. We all want to know another Saint Paul. Most of us have desired a leader that would take us down those same supernatural laden roads, and most of us have convinced ourselves at some point and time that we would actually follow such a one as the blessed Apostle. We like to think that we would be willing to walk like Barnabas or Silas, but I am firmly convinced that the last days revival will bring more than a few examples of holy men and women to the forefront.

Do you need revival? How about we ask instead does God need men and women that will pledge their heads to heaven for the Gospel? Does God the Father still believe that "obedience is better than sacrifice?" Is the eye of God still searching the earth for the one who is fully committed, that He may support such a one?

Let us pray beloved Father, tell us if you want our hearts to be on fire! Let us know if You are satisfied with the small part of our lives that we have allowed you to lodge in, if you are content playing second fiddle to our careers, our children, even our ministries! Father speak to the depths of our soul that we may know if You are the same one who threatened to vomit out the lukewarm Laodicean church folks, and please let us know if we can get by with such apathy in this present time!

Holy God of life, make our hearts aware of the immense need for revival, beginning in our own home first! Glory to You my Lord who desires to kindle fire upon the earth!

TONY DINGESS

LEFT BEHIND

I made a new acquaintance the other evening. During the course of our conversation, it was required that I ask him if he attended a specific church. When he responded I immediately knew the church and the pastor, and even consider the pastor a friend. I called out the pastor's name and my new acquaintance smiled real big, you know one of those smiles that start in the eyes and moves the heart. I knew right away how much love was between this man and his earthly Shepherd, and it really blessed me.

In a short time, my new acquaintance and I discussed much, and I'll not forget the lament of his heart. He began to tell me that he worked night shift and was unable to do a lot of things he was used to doing. Unfortunately, going to church was one of those things.

I could see the sadness descend upon his face when he said that he got to church so infrequently these days that when he does get there, he always is sure to ask "Are you still my Pastor?", "Will you still have me?" And my heart broke for this man.

He stated his schedule was such that he had one Sunday a month off, and during any evening service he would have to be at home and getting ready for work before services would be over. That at times he felt so lost and adrift because he felt "homeless", even though he was a member of this church and loved everyone so much, he still never got to see them or spend any quality time with his church family.

All I could do was weep with him for a few minutes and let him know that although I didn't have the answers, we just had to hold on to the one that does. I have to admit, I was at a loss for words because this is a very sensitive subject for me too.

You see, were it not for those that I consider my Earthly Shepherds, I would be in the same boat. I am so blessed to have been brought into The Kingdom for such a time as this. And I know it isn't by coincidence that these people were brought into my life. If it weren't for this divine relationship, I would be in the same boat as this man is. Actually not part of a boat but feeling like I

had been chucked overboard to tread water while maybe a life preserver or something would possibly happen by to keep me afloat for a while.

I am blessed to have been chosen for what I call the experience of a lifetime. Prayer that leads me to depths I may have not known otherwise. A weekly gathering that teaches me so much and pastors that love teaching in non traditional ways, understands Christianity, is open to God's leading, and tries to live like Jesus.

Others may have given up by now, considering all the past obstacles, and I'm sure many future ones are on the horizon, but they know that revival is coming and things are going to change.

You see when revival comes, what we consider normal will cease to be. (I pray). It may no longer be church twice a week; it may be like 7-11 and NEVER close. And I can promise it won't look like the funeral home either. Singing and Worship will not be half hearted.



Why doesn't this man attend regular Church Service?

When revival comes it will bring hard work and sleepless nights. (I pray). When the government is looking for a program of righteousness guess where it is going to turn? Not to the politicians I assure you. Our values and behaviors will no longer look like the worlds.

When revival comes the message that comes with it may not be what we necessarily want to hear, (I pray). Remember Stephen was stoned, and I don't expect this revival to look any prettier.

Approximately 2.5 billion people in the world have not heard the name of Jesus. And then there are those that have heard and rejected Him already. The Bible tells us

there will be a famine of hearing the word of The Lord.

I beg of you, hear me now, and try to understand. There is a Holy Remnant out here that is falling under a famine of hearing the word of The Lord. And it isn't because of their deaf ears or hardened hearts. It's because they fall through the cracks. They aren't lazy or uncommitted. They aren't a "type" of Christian, but simply one that does not have the same luxury that you have. The luxury of an open church door.

Any of you that are church leaders or in church leadership; I pray you will start a "No Child of God Left Behind" program. At least until revival comes. And make it a priority just like reaching the lost. You might find the lost don't come because of the scheduling issues that face the current Christians; service times.

I know you have heard of the "no child left behind" act. We need to commit ourselves this year to the "No Child of God Being Left Behind" program. Making it a point over the next two years to implementing services of some sort, even if it is just quarterly, other than the normal service times.

The only time I can find early morning services are when the churches are doing Sunrise Service for Easter. Or midnight services at Christmas with my Catholic friends. Oh, how a late afternoon walk with Jesus thru the Gospel of Matthew would be refreshing.

This remnant is hungry and we wait to peck at the little morsels thrown out to us, making them last and sustain until the next morsel is doled out. It isn't easy. Especially when your heart and spirit are crying out for more and you feel as if you are in the desert and never coming out again. Hold on! Don't let go! Help is on the way! Abba is trying to fix this, and he may use YOU to do it.

It may take a while for the trend to catch on, but I know Jesus can be brought into the peoples lives thereby bringing change. These people may show up in their jeans, sporting tattoos and bringing iPods. They may in fact give the podium a break and get down to what's real. And the music from the iPod may not be like you've heard it before, but it will be Jesus they are singing of.

There is a flood of a different kind coming and people have to be taught to walk in it. Won't you be the first?

Get Ready! Get Prepared. Our Lord Comes Quickly.

Marti Dolin

WE ARE ON THE WEB AT:
WWW.THE-RIVERSEDGE-CHURCH.COM

THE RIVER'S EDGE CHURCH

REPENTANCE, REFORMATION, REVIVAL, & RESTORATION

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Awake...and God shall give you light!

The River's Edge Church was born out of the desire for the return of the presence of God to the Church in holiness and awesome majesty. We believe that these last days shall be more astonishing than the days of the Book of Acts, and we believe in praying until we experience it!

We are focused on repentance, reformation, revival & restoration. We are praying for the body of Christ on the earth to arise from the death of comfort, self indulgence and greed and to truly allow the Spirit of Judgment & Burning to purify us from all our corruption!

Pray that we obey, and walk through the doors that open unto us. Alleluia!

T H I R S T Y ?

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my spirit on your offspring, and my blessing upon your descendants" Isaiah 44:3

The River's Edge Church is simply a group of believers with a common purpose; to bring glory to the Father by exalting the Name of Jesus and allowing the Holy Spirit to revive us and others through us. We have no certain location and we simply meet in various homes for prayer, communion, and whatever else the Holy Spirit has in mind from one week to the next.

Please give us a call if you would like to gather with us, or if you would like us to gather with you!

Our Lord is coming!