

Rekindling Your Desire For The Lord: A Study In Spiritual Renewal

2 – WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Questions

1. As you consider the decline in attendance, lower commitment levels and a decreased desire for the Lord among God's people, what are the possible solutions to the overall problem?
2. Is the overall issue a practical problem or a spiritual problem? Explain your thinking.
3. Does your answer to question #2 change your answer to question #1?

I. Current Thinking Concerning Solutions

- It has become noticeable that a shift has taken place in North American churches.
- There is uncertainty concerning what the problem is.
- Possible Solutions
 - Relevant messages
 - Music
 - Programs
 - Community involvement
 - Missions
 - Social justice
 - Coffee Bars
- In spite of some short term successes, they are not addressing the overall problem.
- The problem demands more than a practical response.
- The problem is spiritual: God has removed his blessing.
- The Biblical solution is revival.

II. Biblical Revival

- Revival is God's people coming back to life.
- It is marked by a renewed relationship with the Lord.
- Current discussions typically present revival in terms of morality returning to America.
- While that is a worthy thing to pray for, it is not biblical revival.
- That is called a spiritual awakening where the lost come to faith.
- The 10 Marks of Biblical Revival

1. The Word of God:

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- Deep Hunger to study the Word of God and Hear the Bible read aloud.
2. Evangelism:
Newly invigorated believers display an overwhelming desire to share their faith with family and friends. They become bold in personal witness and unashamed of the name of Jesus.
 3. Conviction of Sin:
Through hearing and studying the Word of God, and in response to the Inward voice of the Holy Spirit, energized believers identify sin in their lives and respond with heartfelt repentance and changed life-styles.
 4. Prayer:
Talking to God becomes spontaneous, deep, long and personal. Because of this intimacy, God's emotions bubble to the surface in believers' hearts and minds.
 5. Societal Lift:
The ethics, morals and values in a group of refreshed believers change dramatically, coming in line with God's Word and Standards. This societal lift caused by the gospel can range in size from a small gathering of believers to an entire region/country.
 6. Fellowship:
Revived believers look for every opportunity to fellowship with each other. Worldly interests fad in attraction, and spiritual pursuits usually replace them, revolving around teamwork and the family of God
 7. Attractiveness:
Restored believers become increasingly attractive to a majority of unbelievers. Due to a renewed holiness in lifestyle personally, as well as a tangible sense of God's Presence in church gatherings, believers become like spiritual "magnets" to many of the lost, who become curious when confronted with a clean, spiritual power in a life being displayed before them. Conversely, some unbelievers and backslidden or stagnant Christians oppose a holy and righteous lifestyle, considering revived believers to be an affront to them and an annoyance.
 8. Polarization:
The rebellious adherents, the prodigals and the sincere seekers are irresistibly drawn to God, while the hard and callous sinners become even more resistant to the Holy Spirit's voice and drawing. Middle ground of complacency is replaced by complete separation of belief. (I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Rev. 3:15,16 NASB
 9. A Great In-Gathering:
The unsaved turn to Christ in large numbers comparatively. Churches are full. Prayer meetings are packed. Even the ungodly and news media takes note of a powerful event in their community. Other religions, and those who oppose the unity of believers in revival, become nervous, antagonistic and often persecute believers in a variety of ways.
 10. Pastoral Leadership:
Most often, the key to unlocking a great revival and holding the door open to the work of the Spirit lies in the hands of spiritual leadership - namely pastors. The unsaved and saved alike look for godly leaders. In its absence, people are scattered, confused and despondent. When a spiritual leader is revived and energized, God moves powerfully.