

The Pain of Revival

“Revival is God’s finger pointed right at me!”—Mel Johnson

“Revival is not the top blowing off but the bottom falling out.”—Darrell Bridges

“You can pray until doomsday for revival, but you will never get it without repentance and confession of sin in the Christian life.”—Erlo Stegan

Our generation has grown up with “cheap grace” and “easy religion.” The average church is seldom challenged with the possibility of deep spiritual experience. In fact you get the impression from many that encountering the Lord is only a light-weight religious incident with minor implications.

Imagine you were standing beside a busy highway. A semi tractor trailer, loaded with 60,000 pounds of cargo and traveling at 70 M.P.H., strikes you while you are standing there. There is no question that the impact would leave an impression on you! When you have a head-on collision with a holy God, it will affect you in profound ways. Encountering God may seem fearful at first, but the subsequent joy so overrides the initial pain that it is forgotten.

“It is possible to evade a multitude of sorrows by the cultivation of an insignificant life,” said J.H. Jowett. Anything of real worth cost something. Genuine revival does happen to im-

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**“God hath given man a short time here upon earth, and yet upon this short time eternity depends.”—
Jeremy Taylor**

If you sin: OWN it, CONFESS it, and FORGET it. If you FALL down—don't STAY down. When you MESS up—GET UP. Stop moaning, moping, and mourning. God's mercies are fresh every morning. His grace is greater than your failure. GET UP—in Jesus' name!—Harold Vaughan

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prove our reputation, vindicate our theology, add to our membership, or merely excite us. But, the divine purpose of revival is to magnify God's name, advance His kingdom, and accomplish His will. When God moves there are many "good things" that accompany it, but preceding the honey there is always the sting of conviction.

Remembrance

I don't believe Christians should live in the past, but we must deal with the past. The church at Sardis was told to "remember." Having once known the higher heights of God-realization, this congregation had fallen into a terrible slump. The Lord challenged them first to recall where they had been in contrast to where they were currently.

Taking a long, hard look at ourselves may not be a pleasant exercise. It is like God-initiated chastisement in that it is not enjoyable for the moment, but afterward it yields the beneficial fruit of righteousness.

Nothing is more devastating to the human ego than a good dose of God revealed self-knowledge. When Isaiah the prophet met God he cried "Woe is me." The stinging pain which accompanies authentic self-discovery is intense. Morbid introspection is neither healthy nor helpful, but Holy Spirit inspection is periodically necessary and immensely beneficial. As the hymn writer pointed out we are indeed "prone to wander," and like the prodigal who "came to Himself," so must we.

The first step toward revitalization is recollection. But God not only admonished the Christians at Sardis to "remember," He also challenged them to "repent."

Repentance

Joseph and Mary were traveling back to Nazareth after participating in the Passover at Jerusalem. They had traveled a considerable distance, not realizing they had left Him. Mistakenly, "supposing him (Jesus) to have been in the company, they went a day's journey." Frantically, they began to look for him among family and friends within the caravan. This led to three days of backtracking where they finally found Jesus in the exact place where they left Him, in Jerusalem.

It is possible to lose touch with Jesus and not even know it. Have you ever been going along in life, supposing Jesus is "with you," only to discover at some point you have been traveling alone? Joseph and Mary found it necessary to retrace

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Our Schedule

- July 31 - August 5
Family Camp
America's Keswick
Whiting, NJ
- August 7-10
Prayer Summit
Faith Baptist Church
Toms River, NJ
- August 12-14
Iron Man Conference
Faith Baptist Church
Martinsburg, WV
- August 21 - AM
Homecoming Service
Goodview Baptist Church
Goodview, VA
- August 26-28
Iron Man Conference
Bible Baptist Temple
Stonewood, WV
- September 15-17
Rocky Mtn. Men's Advance
Woodside Baptist Church
Denver, CO
- September 22-24
Men's Retreat
Northland Camp
Dunbar, WI
- September 29 - October 1
Iron Man Conference
Grand Rapids Baptist Church
Grand Rapids, MI

In the Old Testament
God is "FOR" His people.
In the Gospels God is
"WITH" His people. In
the New Testament God
is "IN" His people.

Prayer Advance Testimonies

"These Advances are life changing!"

"The Spirit of God was here just the same as at Goshen!"

"The prayer Advance has been a huge impact in my life."

"Food was great! preaching was great! Worship was great!"

"Accommodations first class!"

"First time attending. Loved the conference, the singing, the speakers..."

"What a blessing the Advances have been to me and my family for seven years now!"

"Changed my prayer life—the sweet hour of prayer."

"Amazing, powerful, moving, saving, thoughtful. Big thank you!"

"The Prayer Advance was the most powerful experience I have ever been a part of. It (GOD) truly changed my life. God Bless you all!"

their steps to the place where they lost touch with Christ, and so must we.

The route to restoration always involves repentance. When you became a Christian you turned "to Christ." And this initial turning has life-long implications. Having turned to Christ for salvation, you will need to "return" to Him as often as you realize you have turned away.

Job was an amazing man, but when he got a clear vision of God he declared, "I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). It was his unobstructed sight of God that brought staggering conviction of sin. Sin is the consequence of a low view of God, and repentance is the result of a high view of God. When Job "saw" the Lord, he bowed his head and repented.

When God is brooding over His people there are seasons when the sense of sin can be overwhelming. One believer described himself as an "onion Christian." The Holy Spirit peeled off layer after layer of sin in this protracted meeting. Night after night the light of God's presence revealed deeper levels where repentance was needed. This individual fully cooperated with God's Spirit and experienced lasting renewal and rejoicing in his daily life.

In addition to Remembrance and Repentance, there is also...

Restitution

Sin has a horizontal as well as a vertical dimension. The Cross points to the sides as well as upward. When a person's conscience is sensitized, he becomes aware of how he has sinned against his fellow human beings. Having gone to the Cross for a bath in Jesus' blood, he is now ready to make amends with those he has offended. No price is too great to pay for a clear conscience.

After Zacchaeus met the Lord, he paid back those whom he had cheated. I am confident that this clearing of himself was not a burden or drudgery. The mercy of God had flooded his heart and he was eager to put things right where he had done wrong. Repentance had silenced his scruples toward heaven, but there remained a keenly felt need to seek reconciliation on the human level.

When a man meets God in revival he is compelled to find resolution with his fellowman. Through the years we have come across ten words that can put a troubled soul at rest. These

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words are; “I was wrong. I am sorry. Will you forgive me?” No excuses, no accusations—just a heart-felt taking of responsibility for wrongs inflicted on others.

There is something disarming and liberating about humbling oneself. The Bible says, “He that shall humble himself shall be exalted” (Mat. 23:12). You often regain respect from those you have wounded when you meekly ask their forgiveness. The sweetness of restored fellowship is like heaven on earth. God promises to lift you up when you “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord” (James 4:10). This “lifting” is God’s reward for bowing our proud, stiff necks.

I have a friend who was converted later in life. After meeting God in revival, he felt compelled to confess his sin to his employer. The boss called him in and asked, “What kind of year-end bonus do you think you deserve?” He replied, “I don’t think I deserve any bonus, because the truth is, I have been stealing from you for five years.” His manager was stunned and wondered what would motivate a man to confess stealing. After all, this man could have gone to jail, lost his job, and lost his reputation. But being clear with God and

man was more important to him than any earthly consideration. The boss listened intently to my friend’s testimony. Not only did he not get fired, he received a multi-thousand dollar bonus.

Rejoicing

D.L. Moody was working for the Lord and once had a prayer meeting where he had it out with God. That’s when the anointing came on him. After this experience he said, “I used to carry buckets for Jesus, but now I’ve found a river that’s carrying me.”

Our God is a supremely happy God, for in His presence is fullness of joy (Ps. 16:11). It is good to sense the smile of the heavenly Father. It is great when you know there is nothing between your soul and the Savior.

Revival deals with those things which keep us from enjoying God. Once the obstacles are removed, the fullness of the Holy Spirit yields the fruit of joy. “Feel good religion” may not be our cup of tea, but there is nothing wrong with feeling good every now and then! It is God’s will for us to experience a note of holy joy while still upon earth. In revival, people “rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory” (1 Pet. 1:8). When congregations are blessed with corporate revival, the tone and character of the church is transformed with overflowing joy.

Like a woman who has just delivered her child, the discomfort and pain are replaced by the excitement that accompanies bringing a new life into the world. So it is when the heart is clear and the mind is at ease in the presence of God.

From “**Revival in Our Time: Outside the Box—Inside the Book!**” (Chapter 6) By Harold Vaughan - [to order from our web-site.](#)

‘Let the sweet notes of your happy life charm others to Jesus! May the Lord cause you to spread abroad what He has shed abroad, and may that which perfumes your heart also perfume your house, your business, your conversation, and your whole life!’ —Charles Spurgeon

Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side
which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and
make me pure.

Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's
demands;
Could my zeal no
respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save,
and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee
for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee
for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this
fleeting breath,
When my eyes shall close
in death,
When I rise to worlds
unknown,
And behold Thee on
Thy throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Augustus M. Toplady, 1776

*From the end of the earth
will I cry unto thee, when
my heart is overwhelmed:
lead me to the rock that is
higher than I. For thou hast
been a shelter for me, and
a strong tower from the
enemy. (Psalm 61:2-3)*

Looking Ahead this year -

- **Rocky Mountain Men's Prayer Advance 2016** — [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and to register for the Rocky Mtn. Advance at Woodside Baptist Church in Denver, CO on September. 15-17
- **Smoky Mountain Couples' Advance 2016** — [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and to register for the Couples' Advance at The Mainstay Suites in beautiful Pigeon Forge, TN on November 4-5. You won't want to miss this Advance!

The Believer's Résumé (Part 2)

(A page from "Deep Fire" - June 6)

"I will not leave you comfortless (fatherless)" (John 14:18).

When I was born of God, I received a new nature, a new name, and a new family. I am not an orphan. Since God is my Father:

- I am—Kept in safety wherever I go (Ps. 91:11)
- I am—Getting all my needs met by Jesus (Phil. 4:19)
- I am—Casting all my cares on Jesus (1 Pet. 5:7)
- I am—Strong in the power of His might (Eph. 6:10)
- I am—Able to do all things through Christ (Phil. 4:13)
- I am—A joint-heir with Jesus (Rom. 8:17)
- I am—Accepted in the beloved (Eph. 1:6)
- I am—An heir of eternal life (1 John 5:11, 12)
- I am—Blessed with all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3)
- I am—Healed by His stripes (1 Pet. 2:24)
- I am—Exercising my authority over the enemy (Luke 10:19)
- I am—More than a conqueror through Christ (Rom. 8:37)

I am what God says I am!

I have what God says I have!

I can do what God says I can do!

**"Real true faith is man's weakness
leaning on God's strength." —D.L. Moody**

Prayer & Praise

- Physical health and strength
- Thankful for a good summer to re-charge
- Travel mercies as we hit the road again
- Prayer for the successful sale of our travel trailer
- God to work in hearts in upcoming meetings

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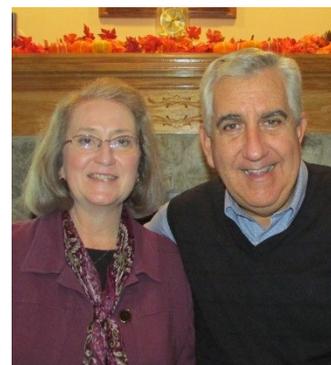
Family News

Harold and Debbie are on the road again. They have a busy fall schedule. Continue to pray for strength and stamina to meet the daily needs of ministry.

Michael and his family have all been battling with strep throat this past month but seem to be on the mend. The boys are enjoying their summer out of school.

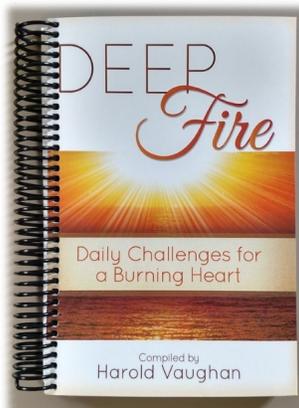
Brandon is getting settled in his manager position with Carilion Transport. The girls are also enjoying their summer and are looking forward to a new sister or brother. Hope wants a sister and says she will sell it if it's a boy. 😊

Stephen has accepted a youth pastor position locally in the Roanoke area. Emily is getting ready for a new school year after a short trip back to California to see family.



See What's New

- [CLICK HERE](#) to go to our web site and check out all the upcoming advances in our “**Prayer Advances**” section, read Harold’s latest article in our “**Blog**” section, browse our “**Shop**” section or listen to one of the many messages in our “**Library**” section.



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