

The Preeminence in Revival

“Jesus walking on the earth is far more important than man walking on the moon.”—James Irwin

“Revival is ultimately Christ Himself, seen, felt, heard, living, active, moving in and through His body on earth.”—Stephen Olford

“It is such a manifest working of God that human personalities are overshadowed and human programs are abandoned. It is man retiring into the background because God has taken the field.”—Arthur Wallis

“It was noised that he (Jesus) was in the house.” (Mark 2:1)

The outstanding feature in any revival is that, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, is the center of attraction. The drawing card is not the preacher, singers, performers, program, or human personalities. These always remain in the background when God has taken center stage.

Sensing the Presence of God

Duncan Campbell defined revival as, “an awareness of the presence of God.” This God-consciousness becomes larger than life. The sense of God is overwhelming, both to saved and unconverted people. I met an older man who was born again in a revival movement in the Scottish highlands. He commented, “The thing that struck me was the awful sense of the presence of God.” Even many

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“There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone’s life.”—Mary Rose McGeady



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decades after his conversion, he was still visibly moved as he spoke those words. He had been in the fire of revival, and he still had the smell of smoke about him!

Evan Roberts would often withdraw himself from the meetings during the Welsh Revival if he felt people were coming to see and hear him. Whenever he feared he was becoming the center of attention he would plead with the people to “look away to Christ and Him alone,” fearing the Holy Spirit would withdraw His presence. At times he would refrain from speaking because he sensed the people were looking to Him instead of Christ. Though he became by far the most publicized preacher in the world, he constantly refused interviews with newspaper men who came from all over the globe. He knew that if he was idolized the Shekinah Glory cloud would depart.

Taking Eternity Seriously

F.B. Meyer came to see for himself what was happening in Wales. There he sat with visitors from all over the world in crowded gatherings where people and even the children sang, prayed, and testified. Other Christian leaders like G. Campbell Morgan, Gypsy Smith, and William Booth visited the scene and often sat quietly taking note that it was without question a divine work. These men recognized that it was not great preaching or preachers behind this movement. This unique work was supernatural in its origin and operation.

Though Evan Roberts became the most popular figure, there were at least one hundred other pastors, evangelists, and lay people whom God had used to lay the groundwork for the revival. The fire of God fell in scores of places where Roberts never visited, and of the places he went he often found the fire was already there. His job was to fan the flame. Of course there must be a human side of revival. In Judges we read about the “The sword of the Lord—and GIDEON.” God does the work, but He works through human agents. There were hundreds of instruments in different parts of the Principality that God used to win souls, but every one of them knew it was the Holy Spirit Who was the instigator and promoter of this operation.

Brian Edwards states in his excellent book REVIVAL! A People Saturated with God: “We live like the world we are supposed to be saving: for the things of time rather than for the things of eternity. Our priorities are world-related rather than heaven-directed; our treasure is on earth. Revival always begins by putting eternity back into the minds of Christians, and only when the church takes eternity seriously can we expect the world to do so.” Jesus told His disciples that the fields were white unto harvest. In order for the harvest to be reaped, the laborers must be sent. God’s people must feel the powers of the world to come before they will impact the world in which we live. The starting point for improvement in evangelism and missions is the revival of the people of God.

Making Christ Preeminent

Historian Jaroslav Pelikan wrote a book titled The Illustrated Jesus Through the Centuries. Here he compiled two hundred images

Our Schedule

- September 11
Chapel
Appalachian Bible College
Beckley, WV
- September 14-17
Rocky Mtn. Men’s Advance
Woodside Baptist Church
Denver, CO
- September 24-27
Revival Summit
Grace Baptist Church
Eaton Rapids, MI
- September 29 - October 1
Prayer Summit
Hope’s Point Baptist Church
Shelbyville, IN
- October 8-11
Prayer Summit
Friendship Baptist Church
Huntsville, AL
- October 15-18
Revival Summit
Gospel Light Baptist Church
Roanoke, VA
- October 27-28
Couples’ Advance
(Optional Session - Oct. 26)
Holiday Inn Tanglewood
Roanoke, VA
- November 5-8
Revival Summit
First Baptist Church
New Castle, VA

*“He that hath slight thoughts of sin never had great thoughts of God.”—
John Owen*

Prayer Advance Testimonies

“Our church prayed for weeks ahead of the SPA, that the Lord would do a work in the hearts of our youth. The answer to these prayers was evidenced in the powerful testimony of our teens Sunday night. Several openly wept as they confessed sins that the Lord had convicted them of, and praised the Lord for being set free from the bondage. Each one was positively affected by the preaching and several made life-changing decisions: one young man called to preach, one young lady to attend Bible College instead of a secular school, and several to allow the Lord to direct their decisions for the future. Our whole church was moved by the work of God in these young people! We are thankful for these life-changing Advances for our youth provided by Christ Life Ministries.”

“Testimony in AM service INCREDIBLE! Testimony tonight BLEW OUT THE ROOF! Had an evangelist preach tonight on keeping your hand to the plow, the altars were full. Revival is at the door! Teens fired up!!”

of Jesus from different times and cultures. He noted that each age “created Jesus in its own image,” depicting Him in ways to suit their personal and cultural needs. But in revival the real Jesus comes and reveals Himself as He is to men as they are. Jesus becomes the center, and everything revolves around Him. As it says in 1 Peter, “Unto you therefore which believe he is precious” (2:7). We don’t need another “cultural Christ” who will sanction the spirit of the age. What we need is a heavenly invasion from the Christ who died for our sins, was buried, rose from the dead, and is returning to earth to judge the quick and the dead! When He has the supremacy men become convicted, converted, and committed to His cause.

Early in 1904, Pastor Joseph Jenkins became deeply burdened about the need of his own heart as well the indifference among Christians in New Quay, Wales. He called the young people together and challenged them to obey the Spirit. It was in a Sunday morning prayer meeting where something significant happened. A young girl named Florrie Evans had been converted only a few days before. She rose to her feet and said, “I love Jesus Christ with all my heart.” These simple words sent a thrill through the hearts of all who were present. A fire was ignited that spread throughout the land!

The missionary to China, Griffith John said, “The secret of the success of the Apostles lay not in what they did and said, but in the presence of Christ in them and with them. They saw with the eyes of Christ, felt with His heart, and worked with His energies. They were nothing; Christ was everything. Christ was living, breathing, and triumphing in their personal lives. Their entire nature being replete with His life, their spirits bathed in His light, and their souls kindled with the fires of His love, they moved in the midst of men as embodiments of supernatural power ... Brethren, this is what we must be, if this mighty Empire [China] is to be moved through us. But to be this, the throne of grace must be our refuge, the secret place of the Most High must be our daily and hourly habitation.” Griffith correctly noted that the preeminence of Christ is bedrock of all effective service. Jesus was “in the midst” of the early church and He can be “in our midst” in these last days!

Jonathan Goforth authored a book detailing the amazing revivals in China. It is titled By My Spirit and in it he writes:

“Finally, the call to revival must be a call to exalt Jesus Christ in our hearts as King of kings and Lord of lords. He is like an Everest peak, rising from the level plain. There must be room only for Him, if we would have Him dwell with us at all. Every idol must be smashed; every darling Isaac laid on the altar; every urge of self denied. Then, and then only, can we expect the larger fields to open before us. It is said of Mahmoud, the great Moslem warrior that in his trail of conquest through Northern India, it was his practice to destroy all idols which fell into his hands. He came at last to the city of Gugeratt, where there was an idol which was held in unusually high esteem by the people. The chief notables of the city came to the general and pleaded with him that he would spare to them this one idol. He might do as he wished with

the others, they said, but if he took this god from them, too, they might just as well die. They pleaded with such intensity that, for a moment, the heart of the conqueror was touched. It seemed more than heartless to bereave these poor people of what was apparently life and death to them. Then he remembered his vow to spare not one idol. The will of Allah was plain. He had a sledge hammer brought to him, and with it he dealt the idol one terrific blow. To his amazement there poured from the rent in the image a stream of jewels and precious stones. The people had hidden their treasures in the image, hoping to move the conqueror to spare it. Consider what his loss would have been if he had stayed his hand at the sacrifice of that one last idol” (pg 136-137).

All the lesser gods must go if the Lord Jesus is to have the preeminence. Yes, the Spirit is still with us. The blessings they enjoyed in the Book of Acts are within our grasp. Goforth writes, “If revival is being withheld from us it is because some idol remains still enthroned; because we still insist in placing our reliance in human schemes; because we still refuse to face the unchangeable truth that ‘it is not by might, *but by my Spirit.*’”

From “**Revival in Our Time: Outside the Box—Inside the Book!**” (Chapter 13) By Harold Vaughan - [CLICK HERE](#) to order from our web-site.

Looking Ahead -

- **Blue Ridge Mountains Couples’ Advance** — [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and to register for the Couples’ Advance at the Holiday Inn Tanglewood Conference Center Hotel in Roanoke, VA on October 27-28.
 - **Men’s Prayer Advance** — [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and to register for the Men’s Prayer Advance at Shenandoah Baptist Church in Roanoke, VA on January 25-27, 2018.
 - **Ladies Prayer Advance** — [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and to register for the Ladies’ Prayer Advance at Shenandoah Baptist Church in Roanoke, VA on April 5-7, 2018.
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“Christian service is not meant to be a formality burdening the mind, but a fire burning in the heart.”—John Blanchard

Prayer & Praise

- Thankful for Great Student Advance!
- Thankful for God’s blessings and continued healing for Lynn, our office manger following his open heart surgery
- God’s working in the meetings this fall

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