

The Price Of Revival

"When God is about to do a great work, he pours out a spirit of supplication."—Jonathan Edwards

"I do not believe in any conception of sovereignty that nullifies man's responsibility."—Duncan Campbell

"It is either Holy Ghost revival or apostasy."—Jonathan Goforth

Is there a human component which precedes an outpouring? What part do people play in the divine economy? How does God resurrect a valley of dry bones? The book of Nehemiah provides insight into God's rescue mission. Here we find four crucial elements from the revival in the days of Nehemiah. First, there was a

Concern Resident in His Heart.

"I asked them concerning the Jews ... and concerning Jerusalem" (Neh. 1:2). Nehemiah was anxious to learn how his brethren in the homeland were doing. He wanted to know how things were back in Jerusalem. When he heard about the desperate plight among his people, he became troubled beyond description.

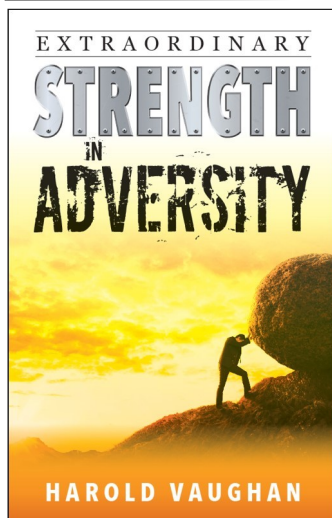
Before God works in a supernatural way, somebody gets stirred up about the situation. It is interesting to note that Nehemiah was not a prophet, priest, or a preacher. He was the King's cupbearer—a businessman of sorts. He lived among royalty and was surrounded by luxury, yet he had a concern deep in his heart.

During the winter of 1857-58 four young men became burdened

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"Grace is what we all need, what none can merit, and what God alone can give."
—George Barlow



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about the spiritual conditions in Ulster (Northern Ireland). These young men met every Friday night in a school house near Kells to pray for mercy. In time, two more joined them as they called down fire from heaven. It was New Year's Day in 1958 when they saw the first conversion. By the end of the year that prayer meeting had grown to fifty. They prayed "for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon ourselves and the surrounding country. This was the great object of and burden of our prayers. We held right to the one thing and did not run off to anything else."

The newly built First Presbyterian Church in Ahoghill was one of the scenes where amazing things took place. One night so many people crowded into the balcony that it began to creak. The pillars which held up the balcony were driven into the floor under the tremendous weight. Fearing collapse the people crowded into the streets. In pouring rain they knelt in the mud and cried out to God for mercy. The church remains today with sunken posts and sagging balcony—a monument to revival. The power of God filled Northern Ireland in 1859 where 100,000 people were converted. It all started with four young men who were weighed down about a desperate situation.

Not only was a Concern Resident in Nehemiah's heart, there also was a ...

Catastrophe that Ravaged His Homeland.

Things could hardly be worse in Jerusalem. The city was in ruins. The remnant was in "Great affliction and reproach, the wall ... is broken down, and the gates...are burned with fire" (Neh. 1:3). The city was in shambles and nobody knew what to do. Even worse were the mixed marriages with the heathen, the enslaving of their Jewish brethren, and the filth which filled the house of God. The prophets were silent, the priests were passive, and the Levites were clueless. Those who should have been at the forefront in the recovery effort were sidelined.

America is financially, politically, morally, and spiritually bankrupt. Our pastors are politicized, our churches are commercialized, and the impact of Christianity is neutralized. Most churches in America have plateaued or are in a state of decline. But where are the leaders who comprehend the times in which we live? Where are the men whom God can use in restoration? Where are the Shepherds who carry with them the burden of the Lord? Why are congregations with a strong sense of God's presence so rare?

"One of the most fascinating things about the age in which we live is: the world advances as never before and the Church retreats as never before ... During times of revival the Divine is so real that nothing else matters ... In times of decline, like our day, everything except the Divine matters ... If no revival comes another period like the dark ages will come, twice as dark, because those who permitted it had twice as much light!" (Source Unknown)

Because of the concern in his heart, Nehemiah internalized the devastation in Jerusalem and made a...

Our Schedule

- November 5-8
Revival Summit
First Baptist Church
New Castle, VA
- December 3-4
Sunday / Men's Meeting Mon.
Bible Baptist Temple
Stonewood, WV
- December 8-10
Men's Meeting / Sunday AM
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Winchester, VA
- January 3-5, 2018
Core Conference
Beacon Baptist Church
Raleigh, NC
- January 25-27, 2018
Men's Prayer Advance
Shenandoah Baptist Church
Roanoke, VA
- January 28-31, 2018
Revival Summit
New Hope Baptist Church
Goode, VA
- February 23-25, 2018
Iron Man Conference
First Baptist Church
Grove City, OH

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Prayer Advance Testimonies

"Thank you so much for the Couples Advance! It was our first one and it was fantastic; my husband and I really enjoyed it."

"We really enjoyed our first Couples Advance. We enjoyed the music, speakers, and sweet spirit of everyone we met. Thank you for both the time and effort you both put into planning this event."

"The Men's Prayer Advance has been a tremendous blessing to me personally. This was my third consecutive Advance."

The Men's, Ladies', as well as Couples' Prayer Advances have been an absolute blessing to my wife and I."

"It was a wonderful Advance!! I feel so revived and refreshed and was feeling pretty dead when I rolled in there on Wednesday. The LPA has been one of the greatest blessings in my life."

Confession which Evidenced Repentance.

Revival is judgment. It begins when God's people side with the Lord against their own hearts. Nehemiah took it upon himself to confess the sins of his brethren. He identified himself with his people as he prayed—*"We have sinned ... both I and my father's house have sinned. We have dealt very corruptly against thee ..."* (Neh. 1:6).

This was not a memorized prayer, but an expression of a broken heart. Nehemiah's confession was the only way to remedy a ruined state of affairs. God had been offended and the people were reaping the wages of their sin. Somebody had to come clean by assuming the sinner's place, and then take on the role of intercessor.

Isn't that what the Son of God did? *For sins not His own He died to atone.* Jesus identified with sinners by becoming sin for us. And Nehemiah took it upon himself to confess the sins of his people.

Peter, who had pledged undying loyalty, denied the Lord Jesus with cursing and swearing. But when the rooster crowed, he went out and wept bitterly. Alarmed and ashamed, Peter drenched the ground with tears of regret. When the last time God squeezed your heart until tears came out of your eyes? It has been said, "You can have tears without repentance, but true repentance is seldom without tears." The weeping prophet prayed, *"O that my head were waters that I might weep day and night for the daughter of the slain of my people"* (Jer. 9:1).

Whenever you find an extraordinary work of God you find people in the background who have first come clean with God on a personal level. When it comes to confession of sin the general principle is that personal sin must be confessed to God, private sin should be confessed to those involved, and public sins call for a public confession.

Jonathan Goforth, who saw incredible revivals in China, adds his observation: "We believe, too, that as regards secret sin, i.e. sin which is known only to the individual soul and God, to confess it at the private altar is, as a rule, sufficient to ensure pardon and cleansing. We say, as a rule, because we have known of many, usually such as have been responsible for the salvation of others, e.g. ministers and Church leaders of one sort or another, for whom secret acknowledgment of sin has not been sufficient. Their agonized public confessions have shown plainly that, for them at least, there was only one way of relief."

The next step is intercession and this belongs only to those who have embraced the ache in God's heart. They have entered into the agony that God feels about the conditions. Somehow God transfers His burden and pain to these praying people and they are plunged into a baptism of anguish which causes them to plead with God. In Nehemiah's case we see a ...

Cry that Revived His Heritage.

Note carefully the words of the cupbearer, *"When I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven"* (Neh. 1:4). This was

not a short-lived flash of emotion. It was not a momentary moving because he *sat down and fasted certain days*. He was consumed with the tragedy in Jerusalem. He entered into an agony of heart which compelled him to fast and plead with God for recovery.

Passive praying for revival is not enough; we must intensely long for and pursue it. For ten years prior to the 1859 revival in Ireland it is said that David Morgan never prayed in public without praying for revival. From 1897 many young ministers were meeting to pray for revival in Wales. After the 1904 Welsh revival R. B. Jones commented on the prayer times among these young preachers, “This fellowship intensified their hunger, bringing it at last to a pitch near to desperation.” Another pastor recalled that on a Saturday evening when his sermon preparation was finished, he spent time in prayer and “There would come upon him such a power as would crush [him] to tears and agonizing praying.”

A God-given burden is vastly different from human concern. It is one thing to be moved when we become aware of a need. Our heart-strings are stirred when we see pictures of starving children in foreign lands. But hours later we have forgotten it. Nehemiah experienced something far deeper than a fleeting stirring. His emotions were so moved that it became deeply felt and acutely painful. The extreme distress of his heart obligated him to cry out to God *certain days*.

The conditions gripped him before his prayers moved God. Nehemiah wept, and then he worked. He was burdened before he built. This man uttered a heart-cry which led to a revival of his heritage.

I recall a pastor that God honored with a powerful local church revival. Before the Lord visited his church he prayed, “Lord, if you are not going to do it here, then send me where you are going to work powerfully!” This man was not interested in piddling his life away. He was hungry for a manifestation of the glory of God.

Are you looking for a better day in Zion? Are you longing for a fire-fall in our day? Are you or your loved ones in bondage? Is there a matter in your life that only God can remedy? Is there someone dear to you who needs God’s healing touch? Are you desperate for revival?

In conservative circles we’ve held on to our religious rhetoric and “revival talk,” but it typically produces little or nothing. We have become so passive and complacent. It is rare to find a preacher or a saint with an inkling as to what is really going on, and more importantly what needs to take place!

Does it bother you that the modern church is in ruins? Does it bother you that the majority of Christians seem to be married to the world? Most of the churches, which are not in apostasy, are on life-support. How can we pride ourselves on our doctrinal precision and superior “stands” when the glory of God is seldom seen and felt?

God’s view of current conditions is different from our earth-bound perspective. There is a desperate need for saints who will get on speaking terms with God and become instruments of intercession. If you are not currently carrying a God-initiated “prayer burden,” will you set your face toward heaven by mourning, fasting, and praying?

The price of revival begins by getting ourselves into a position where we are in such union with God that His burden becomes our burden. Like those days when the early church was birthed, the fullness of the Holy Spirit led those disciples to pray fervently, baptized them with incredible passion, and anointed them with unearthly power. Such was the impact that the early Christians were described as “These that have turned the world upside down.” Never forget that it was a ten-day prayer meeting that paved the way for the Spirit falling at Pentecost. All revival is preceded and sustained with heart-felt prayer. There are always those “behind the scenes” persons who pour themselves out in intercession.

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- God moving in meetings
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*“We learn to trust
by trusting.”*

—Ronald Dunn