

Subject: A Plea For Revival

Scripture: Habakkuk 3:2

Text:

"O Lord, I have heard thy speech and was afraid; O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy."

The prophet Habakkuk cries out to God from the very bottom of his heart and soul to send revival upon the land. Justice had virtually disappeared from the land; violence and wickedness existed unchecked. Greater still, the church, the children of God had drifted into a backslidden state. In the midst of these dark days, this old prophet of God cries out for an intervention from God. The very core of his cry calls on God's people to place their trust in God's sovereign ways. He has already made one dynamic statement, almost a command, "The just shall live by his faith" (2:4) referring to a continuous faith. Faith is not a one-time act, but a way of life for every child of God.

For many years churches have schedule a spring and fall revival out of tradition. But what are the true results of revival? In every genuine revival there will be a deep conviction of sin that ushers in repentance and confession from a burdened and broken heart. In the olden days during revival people filled the altar and sprinkled it with tears, and they prayed and pleaded aloud to God! And they stayed there until victory was won.

Several years ago I was preaching a tent crusade just south of DeFuniack Springs, Florida. It was the last night of the meeting. Right in the middle of my message I noticed a heavy set young man running down that saw dust aisle almost stumbling. He was dressed in blue jeans and a white t-shirt that looked to be 4-6 sizes too small, liking several inches meeting his jeans. He was crying out as if he were in torment and repeating over and over again, "Oh God! O God!" All the people in that tent was crying and shouting "Praise God! Praise God!" Several men joined him in the altar praying with him. Suddenly, this man broke loose from the others and ran from the tent. There was deathly silence! Did he get angry and leave? Just as I began to preach, here comes this fellow again down that saw dust aisle with a pint of whiskey uplifted in the air. He reached that altar and poured that bottle of whiskey out on the altar! His wife and children and all the people rushed to that altar falling on their face before God in repentance and confession. Now that's revival!

Some ten years later I ran into one of the pastor's that was present that night and asked him about the fellow who poured whiskey on the altar. He told me that God had called him to preach and that he pastored one of the fastest growing churches in north Florida. Now, folks that's revival!