

The Aspiration for Revival

Scripture Reading: Hab. 3:2; Hosea 6:2; Psa. 80:3, 7, 18-19; Ezra 9:8-9; Prov. 4:18; 2 Cor. 4:10-11, 16

I. There has always been an aspiration among God's people to be revived—Hab. 3:2; cf. Hosea 6:2:

- A. Habakkuk represents all God's elect throughout the generations.
- B. Since the fall of man there has been in all creation an aspiration for revival; all things that are under the slavery of corruption due to the fall aspire to be revived—Rom. 8:19-22:
 - 1. Because of "the slavery of corruption" (v. 21), there is the need everywhere for revival, for restoration.
 - 2. Unbelievers as well as believers aspire to be revived, to have a new beginning—Hag. 2:7a.
- C. The universal need for revival can be met only by Christ and in Christ:
 - 1. Only Christ, who was resurrected on the third day, is the renewing power; the reality of the third day is the person of the resurrected Christ with the reality of revival—1 Cor. 15:3-4.
 - 2. The pneumatic Christ is the element of revival for which all of creation aspires; for the whole universe and for all of mankind, Christ is the reality of the third day—John 11:25; 1 Cor. 15:45b.
 - 3. The corruption and desolation can be swallowed up only by Christ's resurrection—v. 54.
- D. If we would be revived, we need to enjoy Christ:
 - 1. We may enjoy Christ as the Desire of God's elect—Mal. 3:1b; Hag. 2:7a.
 - 2. We may enjoy Christ as the Angel of the covenant, dispensing the riches of the covenanted Triune God into us—Mal. 3:1b; Matt. 26:26-29; Heb. 7:22.
 - 3. We may enjoy Christ as the Sun of righteousness with healing in His wings—Mal. 4:2.
- E. The way to experience revival is to contact Christ by repenting and confessing our sins, failures, and darkness, thereby entering into Him as the resurrection:
 - 1. We need a lowly spirit—Isa. 57:15a.
 - 2. We need a contrite heart—v. 15b.
- F. We need to pray that the Lord will give us a new revival—a revival that has never been recorded in history—Hab. 3:2a.

II. The way of restoration is the exaltation of Christ—Psa. 80:3, 7, 18-19:

- A. Whenever people exalt Christ, there will be restoration and revival:
 - 1. We can have revival among us only if we exalt Christ, letting Him have the preeminence and giving Him the first place in everything.
 - 2. If a church is somewhat cold and old and desires revival, that church should give Christ the preeminence, recognizing Him as the One who is at the right hand of God.
 - 3. In our private life, married life, family life, and church life, Christ needs to be at the right hand of God.
- B. We need to come together in the meetings to exalt Christ by praising, singing, and shouting, exercising our spiritual birthright to exalt Christ.

III. The following are signs and issues of a spiritual revival:

- A. Being brought up again from the depths—Psa. 71:20.
- B. Calling upon the name of the Lord—80:18; Acts 2:21.
- C. Having the Lord's shining face (presence)—Psa. 80:19; 2 Cor. 4:6.
- D. Rejoicing in the Lord—Psa. 85:6; Phil. 4:4.
- E. Being overshadowed by the sufficient grace—Hosea 14:7a; 2 Cor. 12:9.
- F. Being full of life for producing satisfying food—Hosea 14:7b; Col. 1:6.
- G. Blossoming for producing cheering drink—Hosea 14:7c; John 15:5.
- H. Having a good name that spreads like a tasteful wine—Hosea 14:7d; Phil. 2:17.

IV. A genuine revival is for the restoration and rebuilding of God's house—cf. Ezra 9:8-9.

V. A vital matter that is crucial to the practice of the church life in the new way is our living a life of morning revival and daily victory:

- A. We should not consider that to have a personal morning revival is difficult; to be revived is simply to be touched by the Lord anew; whenever the Lord touches us, we are revived:
- B. We stress that this should be a morning revival based upon God's natural law; every twenty-four hours there is a morning to begin the new day—Prov. 4:18:
- C. The sun rises anew every morning, and we also must rise up every morning; we should follow the sun to be revived and to have a new start every morning:
- D. In our time with the Lord, the main thing is to clear up our conscience, to get rid of our inner condemnation; this is done by making a thorough confession of all of our failures, defects, defeats, wrongdoings, mistakes, and even sinfulness to the Lord.
- E. Then we can take one or two verses from the Holy Word to use in our prayer; this is pray-reading; do not be concerned about too many things, and do not care that much for your understanding.
- F. Take care of calling on the Lord, contacting the Lord, and touching the Lord with a proper inner sense; this keeps you in a direct, fresh, intimate, and loving contact with the Lord.

VI. We need to enter into the new revival by arriving at the highest peak of the divine revelation, living the life of a God-man, and by shepherding people according to God:

- A. We can enter into a new revival by arriving at the highest peak of the divine revelation through the ministry of the age:
 - 1. The particular recovery and work that God is doing in one age is the ministry of that age.
 - 2. The highest peak of the divine revelation given to us by God is the revelation of the eternal economy of God.
 - 3. "I hope that the saints in all the churches throughout the earth, especially the co-workers and the elders, will see this revelation and then rise up to pray that God would give us a new revival—a revival which has never been recorded in history" (*Life-study of First and Second Chronicles*, p. 15).
- B. If we practice living the life of a God-man, which is the reality of the Body of Christ, spontaneously a corporate model will be built up, a model living in the economy of God; this model will be the greatest revival in the history of the church to bring the Lord back:
 - 1. We need to follow the pattern of the Lord Jesus, bearing the brands, the characteristics of His life—Gal. 6:17.
 - 2. We need to live Christ for His magnification by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ—Phil. 1:19-21a:
 - 3. We need to be conformed to the death of Christ by the power of His resurrection—Phil. 3:10.
 - 4. "We should all declare that we want to live the life of a God-man. Eventually, the God-men will be the victors, the overcomers, the Zion within Jerusalem. This will bring in a new revival which has never been seen in history, and this will end this age" (*Life-study of First and Second Chronicles*, p. 28).
- C. We can enter into a new revival by shepherding people according to God, having the Father's loving and forgiving heart and the Savior's shepherding and seeking spirit—1 Pet. 5:2:
 - 1. We need to shepherd people according to the pattern of the Lord Jesus in His ministry for the carrying out of God's eternal economy—Matt. 9:36; John 10:11; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 5:4.
 - 2. We need to shepherd people according to the pattern of the apostle Paul as a good shepherd, taking care of God's flock—1 Tim. 1:16; Acts 20:28.
 - 3. "I hope that there will be a genuine revival among us by our receiving this burden of shepherding. If all the churches receive this teaching to participate in Christ's wonderful shepherding, there will be a big revival in the recovery" (*The Vital Groups*, p. 40).