

Responding to Revival

My third revival

1. When I got saved
 - a) 1981 – Early 80's called the mini-Jesus people movement
 - b) 1995 – Toronto outpouring
 - c) 2008 – Healing revival, just beginning
2. Student of revival
 - a) Reformation
 - b) Great Awakening, 2nd Great awakening
 - c) Pentecostal revival
 - d) Latter rain revival (praise & worship; faith movement; healing revival)
 - e) Evangelical awakening (Billy Graham, YFC, Campus Crusade, etc.)
 - f) Charismatic Revival of the 60's & 70's – Jesus People
 - g) Etc., etc.

Things I've Learned:

1. Respond to God – Don't react to people

- Be responsive to what God is doing, not reactive to what people are doing
- a) Focus on what God is accomplishing, and do not focus on the acts or behaviors of individuals
 - b) Revival is about increasing awareness of Christ and expanding His kingdom, so talk about what God is doing and how Jesus is revealed
 - Don't draw attention to personalities involved in the revival
 - Don't speak criticism about perceived errors or excesses
 - Or even undo attention to those involved in doing good
 - Revival is about making Jesus famous – that should always be our focus

2. No Paralysis through analysis

- a) Lesson learned in Toronto
 - If you demand to understand before you enter in, you'll likely never get it
- b) **Act 17:11** *These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*
 - “Receive ... with all readiness” then search the Scriptures daily ...
 - Be open and receptive
 - Trust God to lead you, rather than fearing the enemy in deceiving you
 - Search the Scriptures Daily
 - Daily disciplines
 - Solid foundations
 - Allows rapid expansion
 - Lack will lead to instability and ultimate collapse

3. Enter into what God is doing today, don't speculate on what He might do tomorrow...

- a) **Act 3:19** *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord*
- “times” -- plural. Revivals come in waves. All through time, even throughout the Old Testament, God would move in seasons.
 - All revivals lead to the return of Christ, but it is pointless to speculate on whether this is the last one... it doesn't matter – it might as well be for you and I, and it may very well be for everyone – our response should be the same – wholeheartedly embracing what God is doing and witnessing to the lost with reckless abandon!!!!
 - Thayer: **a measure of time, a larger or smaller portion of time, hence:**
 - a fixed and definite time, the time when things are brought to crisis, the decisive epoch waited for
 - opportune or seasonable time
 - the right time
 - a limited period of time
- b) **Psa 102:13** *You will arise and have mercy on Zion; For the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come.*
- “set time”: properly **an appointment**, that is, a fixed *time* or season; specifically a festival;
 - Revival: times when you do everything the same but get exponential results
Tony Alward describing the Jesus people movement of the late 60's and early 70's
- b) Set Your heart, focus and attention on what God is doing RIGHT NOW and get all that you can get while the Spirit is moving
- c) Don't speculate on what God might do next, revivals always bring a rash of predictions
- d) **RIGHT NOW**
- The blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, and the poor have the gospel preached to them ...”
 - What more do we need? What else is there to wait for? Let's hop on the revival bandwagon and ride it for all it's worth!
 - As Jesus said the the disciples of John the baptist, “**don't be offended**” (**Matt. 11:5-6**)

4. Let's get “caught up” but not “carried away”

- a) Allow ourselves to get caught up in what God is doing and pursue God in this day of visitation
- b) Remember Jesus' judgment of Jerusalem in **Luke 19:44**, declaring its destruction “*because you did not know the time (Kairos) of your visitation*”
- c) Become “God Chasers” as Tommy Tenney described in his book from a few years ago
- d) But don't get “carried away”
- Remember **Ephesians 4:14**, “*that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine,*”
 - During times of revival many “doctrines” are promoted

- Everyone wants to add this or that, to what God is doing
 - It's important to go with the flow of the Spirit, but not "tossed to and fro" by all of the flotsam and jetsam that happens to float by! (Flotsam and jetsam: floating debris caused by the action of the sea, shipwrecks, or objects jettisoned by the crew).
- 5. This is a time of increased supernatural manifestations**
- a) Angels are being released
 - b) Healing and miracle working angels
 - c) It has been happening worldwide for many years, as seen in the Rolland's ministry in Africa, and elsewhere
 - d) But today is America's day – the miraculous is being released here
 - We've seen it through Bill Johnson's ministry at Bethel
 - Now there's this outpouring in Lakeland
 - e) God's purpose is that in every city and every church His power and presence is clearly manifest
 - f) **Chant: "Go church go; go church go; go church go..."**
6. The purpose of this outpouring is to empower us to be witnesses
- a) **Acts 1:8**, *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*
 - b) Yes this is about the "end time harvest" whether that means there is only one day left, or another thousand years
 - c) Because Now is the day of visitation
 - Preach the gospel – tell the story of Christ
 - Pray for anyone and everyone, anywhere and everywhere
 - Don't wait for a confirmation – this is your confirmation
 - Strike while the iron is hot

Testimonies, and pray for the sick