

REVIVAL

Pastor Richard Vicknair

March 3, 2024

This last Thursday Night ...Something powerful happened
It was the third night of our Pray Seattle Prayer Room

Our expectations for the evening were very low

It was a miserable, cold and rainy night

And Wednesday night was hard because it seemed like we were pushing our prayers uphill- we couldn't wait for it to be over.

We were hoping a hand full of faithful people would show up, but expected very few

A few days earlier a group from Philadelphia Church had volunteered to lead worship – It was comprised of Monica (Their preschool and children's ministry director) David (their worship leader) and Clayton (their youth pastor)

As they were rehearsing I was thinking "These poor people are going to have to lead worship to an empty room."

At 5 minutes to 7 there were only a couple of people. Then, at precisely 2 minutes to 7

The doors opened and within minutes there were close to 40 people in the room. People we knew, but never expected to be there...

From the moment the band began to play

The Spirit of God came into the room in a powerful way

"Powerful" is an inadequate word to describe it:

We were caught up in the Spirit for the next two hours

No matter what adjectives I use to describe it

You had to be there to understand the effects of it

As we came to the close of the service nobody wanted to leave

Over a year ago I reported that I have not seen this much prayer going on in this city for 50 years –
But since that report, there is so much more

I feel that the Lord is directing me to Speak on the Subject of **Revival**

I am sure that you have heard us say from time to time, that we are praying for Revival

We sang about it this morning: God of Revival

Come awaken your people

Come awaken your city

O God of Revival, pour it out, pour it out

Valerie and I had our lives transformed

In the Midst of a Revival 50 years ago in Seattle

If you have seen the Movie: The Jesus Revolution ---- **That was us.**

At that time a wave of the Holy Spirit hit America from both sides of the continent

Simultaneously the Jesus Movement and the Charismatic Movement were born
TWO EXPRESSIONS OF THE SAME REVIVAL

The Jesus movement affected the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, mostly young people on the streets, in colleges and high schools

The Backdrop for the Movement

It was a time of great civil unrest
The next generation was extremely Discontent,
A lot of Disunity and anger
The younger generation threw off their restraints
Rebelled against the values of their parents
And dove head long into drugs and immorality
We raged against the norms of Corporate greed

Does that all sound familiar?

But it all resulted in desperate disillusionment and depression: Recreational drugs turned into drugs to anesthetize pain; But that Desperation prepared us for Jesus

THE JESUS MOVEMENT STARTED WITH A BANG IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Once it started: People were being saved everywhere

- Hundreds of us took the streets with our testimonies
- And people were ready
- Everyday we saw people kneeling down on the Streets of downtown Seattle to give their lives to Jesus
- Hundreds saved in our coffee houses and at concerts
- We had Baptisms 2 or 3 times a week
- Over 5000 baptisms in 3 years: In Greenlake, Lake Washington, Lake union, Puget sound

During one outreach in Wrights Park in Tacoma over 1500 People were saved and 450 of them were baptized at Point Defiance in the cold waters of Puget sound

We Worshipped on the Street corners in the U-District

Our Favorite songs were: I have decided to follow Jesus, I've been redeemed, by the blood of the Lamb and We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

Eventually the Jesus Movement was swallowed up by the Charismatic Movement and Hundreds of Jesus People leaders became well known pastors all over America

Meanwhile the **Charismatic Movement** filled the void left by millions of disillusioned Church people

Church People were looking at the church and thinking: Is that all there is?
Is this the real deal? Where's the beef!

Sound like today?

It started in Seattle and spread across the U.S. and it affected over 200 million people in 10 years

The Charismatic Revival transformed the culture of thousands of churches

Churches were literally raised from the dead

- Millions of nominal Christians became passionate Christians
- And it produced passionate worship - you never wanted it to end
- It produced an insatiable hunger for the Word and the knowledge of God
- A love for the church
- And a love of fellowship with other Christians

At its height the Seattle Charismatic Pastor's fellowship

Which met once a month at Bethany Presbyterian Church on Capital Hill had over 150 pastors from many denominations in attendance. Together we hosted large inter-denominational conferences all over the city

Churches grew rapidly throughout the city

Our church went from 450 people to 2200 in just a 3 years

In 1975, I attended a conference at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City where Over 50,000 Charismatics met for 3 days of worship and teaching

Each evening as we filed out of the stadium we all sang: He is Lord, He is Lord, He has risen from the dead and He is Lord. And you could hear it for miles throughout the city.

Now it's good to remember the past but we can't dwell on the past because we have a glorious future. The children of Israel looked back on their past deliverance from Egypt But they also looked forward to the promised land

I WANT TO GIVE THIS Word: **Revival** some Scriptural and Historical Context

WE HEAR STORIES OF REVIVAL IN CHURCHES
IN COLLEGES
REVIVAL IN CITIES AND NATIONS
PERSONAL REVIVAL

But what does that really look like?

There are a number of revivals mentioned in the Bible

Mount Carmel – Revival (All Israel Turned Back)

Ninevah – Revival

Jordan River revival John the Baptist

The Second Chapter of Acts – 3000 the 5000 then
10s of thousands

Paul's Missionary Revivals – Nations turning to Christ

In Matthew 3 REVIVAL BREAKS OUT IN JUDEA

TEXT: MATTHEW 3:1-6

1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea

- 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."
- 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' "
- 4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.
- 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.
- 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River

At first glance a person would miss some obvious things. These were very Unusual Meetings!

There were no recorded Healings, No Miracles, No-one Raised from the dead, No Loaves and Fishes, No Worship Band, No Nice Facilities, Facebook Posts, No TV Ads, No Printed Bibles

Yet People were coming from everywhere! FOR WHAT?

To see a prophet dressed in camel's hair and who ate locust and wild honey?

What were they coming for?

They were coming to confess their sins and Repent

And be Baptized in the Jordan River

Baptism? Not required by Jewish law

Something was in the air:

Something was going on in the hearts of people

Even the ultra religious scribes and Pharisees felt it

People were sensing something: This thing called "Conviction"

"I need to get clean -- I need to find the truth"

We call this: A Great Awakening, because people wake up to their need for God

THIS IS REVIVAL..... SOMETHING IN THE AIR!

SOME HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS OF

Revivals which affected the United States:

1727 – The First Great Awakening

Started in Germany: Spread to Great Britain and the American Colonies

Key Figures: John Wesley, George Whitefield, Johathan Edwards

RESULTS:

50,000 people out of a total population of 250,000 in New England were added to the churches.

1792 – The Second Great Awakening

Started in Great Britain: Spread to New England

Key Figures: William Carey, Thomas Charles, George Burder

RESULTS:

An example of the moving of the Spirit of God can be seen in an eye witness account of the Cane Ridge Revival of 1801 in which 20,000 people attended a six day camp meeting on the American Frontier.

“The noise was like the roar of Niagra. The vast sea of human beings seemed to be agitated as if by a storm. I counted seven ministers, all preaching at one time, some on stumps, others on wagons and one standing on a tree. Some of the people were singing, others praying, some crying for mercy in the most piteous accents, while others were shouting most vociferously.

While witnessing these scenes, a strange sensation such as I had never felt before came over me. My heart beat tumultuously, my knees trembled, my lips quivered and I felt as though I must fall to the ground. A strange supernatural power seemed to pervade the entire crowd. ...I stepped up on a log where I could have a better view of the surging sea of humanity. The scene that presented itself to my mind was indescribable. At one time I saw at least five hundred swept down in a moment as if a battery of a thousand guns had been opened upon them and immediately followed shrieks and shouts of repentance that rent the very heavens.”

1830 – THE NEW ENGLAND REVIVAL

Started in Boston: Spread over the U.S., Britain, Pacific Islands, India, and South Africa

Key Figures: Charles Finney, Asahel Nettleton, Daniel Baker

RESULTS: One denomination doubled its membership from 580,000 to 1,170,000 in 3 years.

1858 – NEW YORK CITY REVIVAL

Started in New York City: Spread to Great Britain, Europe, Australia, South Africa and India

Key Figures: Dwight L. Moody, William and Catherine Booth, Charles Spurgeon, J. Hudson Taylor

RESULTS:

Jay Edwin Orr gives one Example from a New York City School:

“A schoolboy in class became so troubled about his soul that the schoolmaster sent him home. An older boy, a Christian, went with him, and before they had gone far led him to Christ. Returning at once to school, this new convert testified to his teacher: “Oh, I am so happy! I have the Lord Jesus in my heart”.

These simple words had an astonishing effect; boy after boy rose silently and left the room. Going outside, the teacher found these boys all on their knees in a row along the wall of the playground. Very soon, their silent prayer became a bitter cry; it was heard by another class inside and pierced their hearts. They fell on their knees and their cry for mercy was heard in turn by a girls' class above.

In a few moments, the whole school was on their knees! Neighbors and passers-by came flocking in, and as they crossed the threshold, they all came under the same convicting power. Every room was filled with men, women and children seeking God.”

1904 – The Welch Revival

Started in Wales: Spread to Great Britain, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Germany Canada, U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Africa, Brazil, Mexico and Chile

Key Figures: Evan Roberts, Johathan Goforth, Gipsy Smith, Billy Sunday

RESULTS:

Almost 5,000,000 people from all over the world were converted in two years. In Atlantic City, New Jersey, a city of 60,000, only 50 people were reported unconverted.

Winkey Pratney, in his book on revival gave this report:

A London newspaper Editor who was interviewed after returning from Wales, said in response to the following question:

Q. "You speak as if you dreaded the revival coming your way"

A. "No, that is not so. Dread is not the right word. Awe expresses my sentiment better. For you are in the presence of the unknown...You have read about ghost stories and can imagine what you would feel like if you were alone at midnight in the haunted chamber of some old castle and you heard the slow stealthy steps stealing alone the corridor where the visitor from another world was said to be walking.

If you go to South Wales and watch the revival, you will feel pretty much like that. There is something there from the other world. You cannot say whence it came or whither it is going, but it moves and lives and reaches for you all the time. You see men and women go down in sobbing agony before your eyes as the invisible Hand clutches at their heart, and you shudder. It's pretty grim I tell you. If you are afraid of strong emotions, you'd better give the revival a wide berth."

"As the revivals swept Wales, drunkenness was cut in half. There was a wave of bankruptcies, but nearly all of them were taverns. There was even a slowdown in the mines. You say, "How could a religious revival cause a strike?" It did not cause a strike, just a slowdown, for so many Welsh coal miners were converted and stopped using bad language that horses that dragged the trucks in the mines could not understand what was being said to them, hence transportation slowed down for a while until they learned the language of Canaan."

QUESTION:

Is there anything we can do to bring about revival?

In the 1954 Edition of Christianity Today, said this: "

Revival turns careless living into vital concern...exchanges self-indulgence for self-denial. Yet, revival is not a miraculous visitation, falling on unprepared people like a bolt out of the blue. It comes when God's people who earnestly want it."

So this is the simple question: Do we want it?

When they asked John the Baptist who he was he said:

I am "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' "

What does it mean to "Prepare the Way for the Lord?" How can we do that?

I don't think that we need to do something that requires extraordinary effort or sacrifice to prepare the way

**But I do think we need to want it enough to pray for it
And to admit that we desperately need God**

We need to get in touch with our "discontented side"

Remembering and Examining God's Work through history should create in us:

- *A Hunger for Revival*
- *Cause us to Pray for Revival*
- *Inspire us to Prepare (get ready) for Revival*

HOW DO WE GET READY?

2 Things that make us ready for Revival

1. We REPENT:

don't get wigged out over this word

It simply means to turn away, from your sin, from yourself

We MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, and MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT – We
Make it easy for Him to get to our house by simply humbling ourselves and

2. CONFESSING OUR SIN

Take communion seriously

Let's Long for, and pray for and look for and prepare for revival

I want more!

This is not enough!

I need and I want God!

Sing God of Revival again?