



CHARACTERISTICS OF REVIVAL

1. **Revival is a spiritual awakening by the Holy Spirit among God's people.** 2 Chronicles 7:14 *...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*
 - Revelation 2:1-7; 2 Corinthians 7:10, Acts 2:37-39; Acts 2:42-47
 - **Hindrances to revival in Proverbs 6:16-19** *These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination (disgusting, idolatry) to Him: a proud look (to rise above, haughty), a lying tongue (satan is the father of lies), hands that shed innocent blood (hatred, offense, hatred Mat, 5:21-22), a heart that devises wicked plans (hidden sin, hatred, plotting evil), feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies (deceptive), and one who sows discord among brethren (divides people and the church).*
 - Basically: pride, strife, lies, hatred, offenses, deception, and spreading rumors.
2. **Many of us would consider ourselves to be "good Christians." In many cases, the real "culprit" is found in Revelation 2:1-7.**
 - A. In verses 1-3, 6 God tells them that they have been awesome in the mechanics of ministry -- *"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary."*
 - *...But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*
 - B. Nevertheless... (not a good word, canceling out what they were just commended for)
 - C. Verse 4 is at the **heart** of God's rebuke -- *Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.*
3. **All they were required to stoke the fire of revival:**
 - A. Verse 5 **Remember** therefore from where you have fallen;...
 - B. **Repent** – A change of thinking (mind) with a corresponding action, to turn around.
 - C. **Do the first works.**

4. **In the Bible, revival occurred during a time of moral darkness** and national depression or a time of spiritual decline or apostasy among God's people Israel or His Church. Many times this was a time of great spiritual need.
 - Exodus 3:7-9 *7 And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. 9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.*

5. **Old Testament revivals began in the heart of one or more consecrated servants of God**, who became the energizing power behind the revival. These agents were used of God to lead God's people back to faith in God and obedience to him and His commands.
 - Exodus 3:10 *"Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."*

6. **Prayer was and is central to revival.**
 - Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. This is a cry from God to the Church, not about the state of America but the state of the Church. We are too obsessed with earthly or personal things. Revival begins with us, the Church, God's people. When we are obedient He will answer our heart's cry.

7. **Revival rested upon the powerful teaching, proclamation or preaching of the Law or the Word of God.** (Nehemiah 8:5-6; Acts 2:14, 37-42)

8. **Revival brought about a destruction of idols or ungodly preoccupations**, a separation from personal and corporate sin and was marked by a return to the worship of God. (Elijah on Mt Carmel in 1 Kings 18:21, 38-39. Israel had two opinions)

9. **Revival resulted in an experience of exuberant joy and gladness**, including Tongues as seen in Acts 2:1-4, 38-39.
 - Acts 2:1-4, 38-9 *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

10. **Revival was followed by a period of blessing and social reform** as we see in Acts at the birth of the Church.
 - Read Acts 2:40-47

THE JESUS PEOPLE REVIVAL

There were four major waves of revival between the 18th and the late 20th centuries. The Jesus People movement occurred during the late 1960s and continued into the late 70s.



1. As we came to Christ we repented and turned from our evil lifestyle.

- 2 Corinthians 7:10 Metanoia, a change of thinking with a change of direction/living'

2. We hungered for God's Word. Our cry was, "Teach us the Word and show us how to live it!"

3. We covenanted with God and saw dramatic changes in lifestyles. We were not cultural Christians but disciples.

4. We kept short accounts with God and with fellow believers.

5. We prayed about everything, with anybody, anytime, anywhere.

6. We were expressive about our love for God and the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

7. We loved others unconditionally and we were in daily fellowship with other believers.

8. We were driven to reach the lost. A clear vision of Hell and Heaven motivated us.

9. We disciplined people until they could, in turn, disciple others.

10. Many of us continue to this day through the power of the Spirit!

Here's what to do:

- We will not call endless, exhausting meetings. We will only do what we see the Lord doing and walk through the doors He opens.
- Ask for and desire revival in our OWN hearts.
- Remember the hindrances to revival. A good place to start is with a realistic, honest evaluation of the condition of our heart.
- **Pray and obey.**