

Lesson 3

Overview of Historical Revivals

2 Chronicles 7:13-14

Theme: If we are to learn anything of lasting value about revivals then we must be good students of revivals that have happened in the past.

Introduction: Charles Finney gives us a good definition of revival, "Revival is renewed conviction of sin and repentance, followed by an intense desire to live in obedience to God." Revival is when God reveals Himself in awesome holiness and irresistible power. It is when He visits to impart a fresh vision of His glory and grace and simultaneously to reveal man's sinfulness, inadequacy, and desperate need of God's mercy. During times of revival God's people are restored from backsliding, carelessness, and inactivity. They become preoccupied with the things of God. They become intensely prayerful, attending God's house more frequently for fellowship and worship. They develop a hunger for the preached word which illuminates and powerfully penetrates the hearts of its hearers, bringing conviction and response. Believers develop a passion for souls and become deeply concerned about the spiritual welfare of the lost.

The results of true revival are plainly evident. The normal traits of ungodliness disappear. Blasphemy and filthy language, drunkenness and immorality, dishonesty and selfishness are all replaced by a sweet sense of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Sometimes entire towns or areas are affected. At other times whole nations are enwrapped with God's renewing activity that hardly any inhabited places are without some evidence of His glorious workings. Revivals usually occur after a prolonged spiritual and moral decline. By definition, a revival requires a state of death, neglect, or loss. This has always been true historically. The church becomes apathetic to her Master, her morals, and her mission. We lose our zeal and become ineffective. Our worship becomes dull and uneventful and our membership declines. We need to be revived occasionally, for our own sake.

To get a better understanding of a biblical revival we need to investigate the revivals that have happened.

I. Revivals in the Old Testament

A. 1. Gen 4:26

B. 2. Gen 35:1-15

C. Exodus 4:29-31

D. Exodus 32-36

E. Judges

F. 1 Sam 7:1-13

G. King David

H. King Solomon

I. 1 King's 17-18

J. Jonah

K. 2 Chronicles 15:1-15

L. 2 Kings 11-12; 2 Chronicles 23-24

M. 2 Chronicles 29-31

N. 2 Chron. 34 – 35

O. Ezra 5-6 and Nehemiah 8 -10

II. Revivals in the New Testament

A. The Revival _____

B. Revival _____

C. The ministry _____

D. _____

E. Revival _____

F. Revival _____

G. Revival _____

H. _____

I. _____

J. _____

III. Revivals in the recent past.

A. Revival of _____

B. Revival of _____

C. Revival of _____

D. Revival of _____

E. Revival of _____

F. Revival of _____