

Message Notes

“Days of Elijah – Revive Us Again”

1 Kings 18:30-39 (NKJV)

January 29, 2017

Revival: Its Presence Illustrated at Wheaton College

◆ Defining a Movement

“The events of this week are as ‘a movement of God’s Spirit,’ ‘an outpouring of His love,’ ‘a time of spiritual awakening,’ ‘a special visitation from God,’ ‘a significant stirring of the Spirit’ and ‘a divine initiative.’” (Stephen Kellough)

“Revival is a special and sovereign work of God where He visits His people to reanimate, to restore and to release in them the fullness of the Holy Spirit for the furtherance of the gospel in the world. (It is) a time of preparation, often evident times of crisis or spiritual apathy, acute awareness of God’s majesty and holiness and of the depth of human sin, confession of sin with a knowledge and certainty of forgiveness and the growth of the church and its mission in the world.”

(Dave McDowell)

◆ Describing a Movement

◆ The Impact Increased – 1936

“To make a long story short, out of that broken-up, student special service activity, and the revival . . . came the Student Foreign Missions Fellowship (SFMF). . . . Therefore, what happened in February 1936 was God’s preparation for what was going to happen in the post-war era. GIs came to Jesus Christ . . . and volunteered to go overseas, because they had been there. They’d seen the church. They’d seen the need. They wanted to do something.” (H. Wilbert Norton)

◆ The Individual Was Invaluable – 1970

“After four days, there was little evidence of the Spirit doing anything corporately. Suddenly, on Thursday evening, a student asked President Hudson T. Armerding ’41 if he could share his story. . . . The entire weekend, a spirit of joy and transformation pervaded the campus. Cynicism was altered. Churches were touched. . . . The fame of what God did at Wheaton lit a flame elsewhere, far beyond the College community.” (John H. Armstrong)

“The 1970 revival decisively and wonderfully transformed the general atmosphere on campus for the remainder of my time there . . . I can never look at anyone, myself or others, and conclude that that person is beyond the reach of God’s grace.” (Raymond C. Ortlund, Jr.)

◆ The Initiation Was Intercession – 1995

“During the fall of 1994, three different freshman students came by my office saying, ‘I understand that you have an interest in revival.’ They didn’t know one another, but as each was praying, God had laid on their hearts that He was going to do a work here.” (Tim Beougher)

“(It was) the lancing of a spiritual boil – needed, messy and painful. But the results were nothing short of healing, transformative and life-giving.”

(Randy Gruendyke)

“Isaiah said, ‘I saw the Lord. High and lifted up . . .’ and as a result he said, ‘I am a man of unclean lips’ and he confessed his sinfulness. And when our sinfulness is an expression of our response from seeing the Lord for who and what He is, it’s good and healthy.”
(Duane Litfin)

Revival: Its Principles Indicated at Mt. Carmel

◆ Through Dramatic Confrontation

◆ The Scene

◆ Where Pagan Favor Was Evident

◆ Where Pagan Failure Was Prominent

So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared *it*, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, “O Baal, hear us!” But *there was* no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.
(1 Kings 18:26)

◆ The Significance

◆ Events Were Remarkable

◆ Were Events Revival?

◆ Through Deliberate Execution

³⁰Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD *that was* broken down. ³¹And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Israel shall be your name.”
(1 Kings 18:30-31)

Thus says the LORD: “Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way *is*, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk *in it*.’”
(Jeremiah 6:16)

◆ Describing a Movement

◆ Recalling God’s Purposes

◆ Recognizing God’s Primacy

^{33b}“Fill four waterpots with water, and pour *it* on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood.” ³⁴Then he said, “Do *it* a second time,” and they did *it* a second time; and he said, “Do *it* a third time,” and they did *it* a third time. ³⁵So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water. (1 Kings 18:33b-35)

◆ Requesting God’s Power

³⁶And it came to pass, at *the time of* the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, “LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You *are* God in Israel and I *am* Your servant, and *that* I have done all these things at Your word. ³⁷Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You *are* the LORD God, and *that* You have turned their hearts back *to You* again.”
(1 Kings 18:36-37)

◆ According to His Guidelines

◆ See the Moment . . .

◆ And the Miracle

◆ **Aspiring to His Glory**

“It is possible for us to seek revival simply out of the desire for our lives to be free from the misery and woe generated by an ungodly society. . . . If we pray for revival because we are tired of seeing God’s name ridiculed and His laws spat upon and want to see Him vindicated and honoured, we have every reason to be confident He will hear and answer.” (Robert Ellsworth)

“Our readiness for revival begins by looking at the example of God’s work on a college campus and an ancient mountain.

Recognizing the potential impact of any individual and of focused intercession, we can seek God to recalibrate our lives to His purposes and our prayers to His prominence.

If we do, we may see His power afresh in our day.”

(Pastor Dave)