

## Doctrine of Revival

### The Request for Revival

Isaac Watts sang a prayer,

“Kindle a flame of sacred love  
in these cold hearts of ours”.

Then he went on to sing:

“Look how we grovel here below,  
Fond of these trifling toys;  
Our souls can neither rise nor go  
To seek eternal joys.

In vain we tune our formal songs;  
In vain we strive to rise;  
Hosannas languish on our tongues,  
And our devotion dies.

Dear Lord, and shall we ever live  
At this poor dying rate?  
Our love so faint, so cold to Thee.  
And Thine to us so great!”

G.F. Barbour points out, the two marks of the revival which recur constantly in the reminiscences of its survivors were first “*a profound sense of sin and then an intense experience of the power of prayer*”. In his book, *The Eternal Gospel*, Rufus Jones said: “*It looks as though there were seasons in the course of history which are like the vernal equinox of the Spirit when fresh initiation into more life occurs, when new installations of life seem to break in and enlarge the empire of man's divine estate.*”

### General Thoughts on Revival

1. Revival is a mystery related to God's sovereignty. *"Verily Thou art a God that hidest Thyself, O God of Israel, the Savior" (Isaiah 45:15).*
2. Revival falls within the category of secret things that belong to God alone. Revival is mysterious in its origin. It is like the wind. We cannot tell whence it comes.
3. Revival presupposes the decline of the church, and it is therefore consistent with its nature that it should be manifested out of the midst of depression and decay.
4. Revival is mysterious in its operation. It blows where it wills. We may tell the direction of the breeze that we feel on our cheeks; we may devise instruments to measure its velocity; we can watch its effects as it ripples the golden corn or causes the trees to clap their hands together. But we cannot control it. We cannot cramp its freedom. We cannot alter its invisible track.
5. Revival is mysterious in its objective. The end is hidden deep in the counsels of God. Revival leads we know not where. It is like the wind. We cannot tell where the wind goes. It brushes the hilltops, whistles through the valleys, and then departs to a destination unspecified.
6. Why does revival fade so soon? We have to confess that the ceasing of the manna is part of the mystery that enfolds the Spirit's activity.

“For Thou art God that dost  
To me salvation send,  
And I upon Thee all the day  
Expecting do attend”.

## **The Cry of the Sin Burdened Heart**

**Leonard Ravenhill**

1. The greatest miracle God can do is to take an unholy man out of an unholy world, make him holy, put him back into an unholy world, and then keep him holy.
2. Are the things we are living for worth Christ's dying for?
3. The Bible is never wrong! God does not have to retract, revise, repair, or recall one word He has ever spoken.
4. Based on the Ten Commandments, any nation can progress. Without those commandments, no nation can retain its soul.
5. God has to work in a man before He can work through a man.
6. It is much easier to wear a cross than to bear the cross.
7. The world is unimpressed with a man who has his 'dispensations' all correct, but his disposition all wrong.
8. Tears are a ministry untaught, unsought, and unteachable.
9. Truth fears no exposure.
10. A contentious spirit is a sign of immaturity.
11. Revival is an explosion in the church; evangelism is an expression of the church.
12. Our preachers must be filled with the Spirit before they fill the pulpits, or else they will fill the people with chaff.
13. The pastor's task is to feed the flock, not to produce it.
14. John the Baptist did not raise a dead person. He did more--he raised a dead nation and a dead generation.

“Where is the blessedness I knew,  
when first I saw the Lord?  
Where is the soul refreshing view,  
of Jesus and His Word?”

### **When is Revival Needed?**

1. When prayer ceases to be a vital part of a professing Christian's life, backsliding is present and revival is needed.
2. When the quest for biblical truth ceases and one grows content with the knowledge of eternal things already received, there can be no mistaking the presence of backsliding, and revival is needed.
3. When the biblical knowledge possessed or acquired is treated as external fact and not applied inwardly, backsliding is present and revival is needed.
4. When earnest thoughts about eternal things cease to be regular and gripping, it should be a warning light to the backslider that revival is needed.
5. When the services of the church lose their delights, a backslidden condition exists and revival is needed.
6. When pointed spiritual discussions are an embarrassment, that is certain evidence of backsliding and revival is needed.
7. When sports, fishing, hunting, recreation, and entertainment are such a large and necessary part of one's lifestyle that the prayer meeting and the church services are neglected, you may assume backsliding is in force and revival is needed.
8. When sins of the body and the mind can be indulged in without an uproar in the conscience, a backslidden condition is certain and revival is needed.
9. When aspirations for Christ-like holiness cease to be dominant in one's life and thinking, a backslidden condition is present and revival is needed.
10. When the acquisition of money and goods become a dominant part of one's thinking, this is a clear confirmation of backsliding and revival is needed.
11. When one can mouth religious words and sing religious songs without heart, be sure, backsliding is present and revival is needed.
12. When a person can hear the Lord's name being used in a vulgar way, when spiritual concerns are mocked, and eternal issues are flippantly treated and there is no notion towards indignation and action, a backslidden condition exists and revival is needed.
13. When degrading movies and television programs can be watched and morally debilitating literature read, backsliding has occurred and revival is needed.
14. When breeches of peace in the brotherhood are of no concern, there is backsliding and revival is needed.

15. When the slightest excuse is sufficient to keep self from spiritual duties and opportunity, there is backsliding and revival is needed.
16. When a person is content with lack of spiritual power and no longer seeks repeated endowments of power from on high, there is a backslidden condition and revival is needed.
17. When personal sins are easily excused by saying, "The Lord understands and remembers that we are but dust," a backslidden condition is revealed and revival is needed.
18. When there is no music in the soul and no song in the heart, the silence testifies to a backslidden condition and revival is needed.
19. When there is a happy adjustment to the world's lifestyle, the truth of backsliding is revealed and revival is needed.
20. When the local assembly has fallen into spiritual declension and the Word of God is no longer preached with power and anointing and one is still content, there is backsliding and revival is needed.
21. When the tears for the lost are gone and the heart is cold and without emotion for the salvation of sinners, backsliding has taken place and there is need for revival.
22. When the Word of God is not honored by personal presence and sound attention, backsliding is obvious and revival is needed.
23. When more emphasis is placed upon external acquisitions instead of spiritual growth in grace and in knowledge, a backslidden state is present and revival is needed.