

Revivals Equation



Christ Centered, Holy Spirit Empowered, Love Focused

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Date: 10-25-08

Main Text: Acts 2:42-47

(Note all scripture references are from the New King James version on the Bible)

Main Text:

Acts 2:42-47 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Introduction:

1. Five constants for revival are identified in this passage:
 - a. Believers were consistent in their commitment (v42)
 - b. Believers were empowered by gifts of the Holy Spirit (v43)
 - c. Believers had a common concern for one another (v44-45)
 - d. Believers gave priority to unity, house to house fellowship, praise and worship (v46-47)
 - e. God honored the service of believers and added new converts (v47)

Body:

1. Constants of the formula for revival
 - a. Believers were consistent in their commitment
 - i. V 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
 - ii. We need to be committed to:
 1. Doctrine from the rightly divided scripture
 - a. 2 Tim. 2:15 (KJV) Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 2. Fellowship – faithful attendance to Church services.
 - a. Heb. 10:19-25^{Therefore}, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His

flesh, ²¹and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

3. Breaking of bread – honoring Christ sacrifice in observance of communion.

a. Luke 22:19-20 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” ²⁰Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

4. In prayer

a. Phil 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

b. Believers were empowered by gifts of the Holy Spirit

i. V 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

1. Mark 16:17-18 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

2. Heb. 2:1-4 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. ²For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*, ⁴ God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own

will?

- c. Believers had a common concern for one another
 - i. V 44-45 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.
 - 1. James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.
 - 2. Gal. 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*”

- d. Believers gave priority to unity, house to house fellowship, praise and worship
 - i. V 46-47a So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people.
 - ii. Unity looses the move of God
 - 1. Phil. 2:1-4 Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.³ *Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
 - iii. House to house fellowship
 - 1. They got to know each other at a personal level were friends and shared meals together. Taught and learned from one another.
 - a. Paul tells us in Acts 20:17 ...I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house,
 - iv. Praise and Worship
 - 1. I Thes. 5:16-18 Rejoice always,¹⁷ pray without ceasing,¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
 - 2. John 4:19-24 The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we

worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

3. Heb. 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.

e. God honored the service of believers and added new converts

i. V 47b And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

ii. 1 Cor. 3:5-7 Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. ⁷ So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

iii. Always remember that all glory belongs to God and God alone.

1. Rom. 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

2. Revival requires personal involvement

a. Joshua 3:5 And Joshua said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.”

b. 1 Peter 1:13-16 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*”

c. 2 Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

d. Eph. 5:17-21 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Conclusion:

1. Revival comes when believers consistently hold to the truths contained in The Word, abide in fellowship, always stay in remembrance of the sacrifice of Christ and pray.
2. Revival comes as believers are empowered by gifts of the Holy Spirit and these gifts are welcomed in the fellowship.
3. Revival comes as believers support and love one another
4. Revival comes as believers operate in unity, develop personal relationships and offer praise and worship through Christ our king.
5. Revival results in new converts – even though we have a part and are used of God we must always recognize that all the glory belongs to God.
6. We need to be personally involved in preparation before God to be used by God in a revival move.
7. Our prayer should be as the Psalmist David:
 - a. **Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?**