

Fanning

the



of Revival

Passion

There are only seven references¹ for the term, "revive" found in the scriptures. Yet, the Body of Christ has turned this word into the "catchphrase" known as "revival." Everyone is looking for "revival." Any move of God is immediately coined with the term, "revival." Sometimes it seems as though we are more concerned with having revival than we are with the real purpose of what revival is.

Many times the Body of Christ is caught in a spiritual trap whether we realize it or not. When there is a move of God we recognize it. We acknowledge that God may be moving and doing something. However, we tend to get caught into the "people" aspect of the move in place of the One who it is really all about. We get caught into this trap in many ways.

One way is that we want to go to see what **we** can get from it. What great impartation or knowledge or something we can get from this move of God. That is not necessarily a bad thing but it can become all about us. Another, trap is that we tend to begin to elevate the people that God may be using and tend to keep our attention on them. Many times this can lead to those leaders getting caught in a trap of pride, ego and arrogance. We have also seen that this can lead to, unfortunately, "showmanship" which can become a form of "Christian Entertainment." I know I may seem to be a little jaded in what I am saying. However, if we are truthful, we can see how this can happen and even get caught up in it ourselves, as well.

Let's take a look at the definitions of the term "revive" and go from there. The term "revive" as found in scripture comes from the root Hebrew word - "chayah" (khä·yäh) - which means - *to live, have life, remain alive, sustain life, live prosperously, live forever, be quickened, be alive, be restored to life or health; to live in the sense of living prosperously. It means to be quickened - quickened from sickness, from discouragement, from being faint hearted and most importantly, quickened from death. Our definitions can also include: to preserve alive, let live, to refresh or be refreshed, to restore life to something, to cause to grow.*

¹ Nehemiah 4:2; Psalm 85:6; Psalm 138:7; Isaiah 57:15; Hosea 6:2; Hosea 14:7; Habakkuk 3:2

Wow!! That is quite an exhausting definition for one word. The above definition clearly shows us what the integral aspects of revival entail. As I mentioned in the opening of this article, there are only seven references found in the scriptures with the term "revive" in them (using the KJV). I would like to make mention that all of these references are found in the Tenach (Old Testament). Just keep that in the back of your mind. We will get back to that thought a little later in our discussion.

Let us first take a look at one of those references. Let's look at Isaiah 57:15 - *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name [is] Holy; I dwell in the high and holy [place], with him also [that is] of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

As we read this scripture it tells us that the "High and Lofty One," the one whose name is "Holy" will revive those with a "humble and contrite heart." The term "humble" and "contrite heart" are terms that we are very familiar within the Body of Christ. These terms are to reflect the attitude of heart that God is seeking after that will allow and cause Him to do something awesome. When a person finally humbles themselves and recognizes that they can do nothing without their God, they finally come to the place of "turning towards" God (which is an act of worship). He will then "revive" that person - or a people.

If you remember, previously in this article I had mentioned that the term "revive" was only found in the Tenach (Old Testament). There is no mention of the word in the New Testament Scriptures. We do see the term "quicken" in the New Testament scriptures but we do not see the term, "revive" or "revival." Why is that? Let's go back to our definitions of the term "revive."

When we take a good hard look and really think about it, all of these characteristics of the term are found in one Word of the New Testament Scriptures; or should I say one "Person." All those attributes of "revival" are found in what Jesus did and does in the life of anyone who believes, accepts and receives Jesus into their heart. Jesus is the "revival" that the prophets were foretelling and looking forward to coming. Jesus has "quicken" us together with Him through His redemptive blood. He truly has **revived** us. He gave us new life. He has healed us. He has blessed us with life and life more abundantly. He has supplied every one of our needs through Himself. And it goes on and on. We seem to overlook this and always seem to feel that we are missing something - we do not have it all - even though God has given it all to us. It seems as though we are "blinded" to what all that God has already done for us.

It reminds me of the Jewish people. They pray for the "peace of Jerusalem." When we as Christians pray for the Jewish people we pray that their eyes would be open and that they would see that their "Peace" came two thousand years ago in the form of the Prince of Peace, Yeshuah ha Meshiach. We pray, "Open their eyes." I think it is the same with us as the Body of Christ. We are praying for "revival" but our "Revival" came two thousand years ago and we have been revived when we accepted Him as our Lord and Savior. He has quickened us together with Him - *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)* - Ephesians 2:5.

Matthew 5:3 expresses it in another way. It tells us, *"Blessed are they who are poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."* Being "poor in spirit" is again an attitude of a person's heart that recognizes that they are impoverished in and of themselves. They acknowledge that they need something more and they turn towards Jesus, believe and receive Him into their life and their "reward" or result of this is the Kingdom of Heaven - Eternal Life. What happens when we believe and receive Jesus? We become "born again" - our spirit is renewed, refreshed, made alive again - everything detailed and expressed in our definition of "revive."

Now, before you get too upset with me, allow me to clarify. I realize that there have been, are and will continue to be, great moves of God throughout the earth until the day when Jesus returns. These moves have many purposes. They can be used by God to encourage, edify and comfort the Body of Christ. God may use these moves to bring signs and wonders to show non-believers who He is so that they may come to accept Jesus and be saved as He desires none to perish but for all to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus. He may also use these times of great outpouring to provoke the Jewish people to jealousy to see that Jesus is the way to the Father and that He is the "Peace," their "Messiah" that have been looking for. And there are other purposes that He may have. However, all of these include the main purpose - which is to point to Him.

What I am trying to express in this discussion is that, maybe, just maybe, the revival that we are looking for is already found within each of us as born again children of God. Maybe, just maybe, we need to "fan the flames of passion" that are within us and we may see "revival" happen everywhere we are. Each and every one of the Body of Christ, I believe, is a walking "tent" revival. The Spirit of the living God dwells within each of us - we are the tabernacle, the tent, of the living God. We need to "fan the flames of ~~revival~~ or rather **passion**." I believe that we must rekindle and "**fan the flames of passion**" within our heart to love the Lord thy God with all of our heart, soul, mind and all that is within us. We must allow the "all consuming fire" of the Holy Spirit to come and burn away the wood, chaff and the stubble and allow that Fire to refine the gold and silver that has been placed within us in and through Jesus (1Timothy 2:15).

Fanning the Fire of Passion needs to continually be "stoked" through an attitude of heart that desires to continually worship Him through a lifestyle of worship. We must continually turn towards, kiss towards and acknowledge Him for who He is in our lives.

The Priesthood always kept the fires of the altars burning. They always put incense on the fire that would be offered up to the Lord as a sweet smelling fragrance. God has ignited the fire in our hearts and spirits through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The altar of incense continually lifted up a sweet smelling fragrance before the Holy of Holies which represented where HE dwelt in the midst of His people. – Exodus 30: 1-9. He now dwells within us. That "altar of incense" within each of us needs to continually offer up to Him a sweet fragrance through our lifestyle of worship. This is in direct opposition to the "strange fire" offered up by Nadab and Abihu – Leviticus 10:1,2.

As the Lord breathes His life into our Born Again spirit, we are filled with His life, His breath, which is manifested in our lifestyle of worship towards God. This, in turn, allows God to come in the midst of His people (Psalm 22:3) and breathe more life into us - thereby "Fanning the flames of Passion" within. This cycle, if allowed to, will be a continuous flow of God's presence in the midst of His people – which brings a continuous outpouring of His power to quicken, renew and refresh which is ultimately - revival.

