

WE WAIT FOR YOU, LORD

Part 1 of The Cry for Revival. Isaiah 64:1-4.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. August 11, 2024.

A NEW TEACHING SERIES

Three sermons on revival from Isaiah 64:1-12.

THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR THE SERIES

Are there days when the Lord feels absent?

- Do you feel spiritually parched?
- Do sin and the devil seem to have the upper hand?.

This was the situation in 8th-century BC Israel.

- The nation was spiritually bankrupt, and the armies of Assyria were waiting on the border to conquer and destroy.
- So the prophet cried out to the Lord for revival.
- For context, let's read Isaiah 63:15 - 64:12. Our focus today is 64:1-4.

STEP ONE OF PREPARING FOR REVIVAL: WAITING

Isaiah 64:1-4 (CSB) If only you would tear the heavens open and come down, so that mountains would quake at your presence — 2 just as fire kindles brushwood, and fire boils water — to make your name known to your enemies, so that nations would tremble at your presence! 3 When you did awesome works that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains quaked at your presence. 4 From ancient times no one has heard, no one has listened to, no eye has seen any God except you who acts on behalf of the one who waits for him.

We wait because we remember God's power - verses 1-3.

- Isaiah remembers God's power on Mount Sinai.

- So, he prays, “Do it again.”
- Christians remember the shaking and fire of Day of Pentecost.
- We pray to the Lord to reveal his power because we’re tired of lackluster faith, frustrated with the dribble of conversions, and wondering where the healings, exorcisms, and great words of the Holy Spirit have gone.
- “Lord, do it again. Show your power so no one doubts it is you. Stop being invisible and ambiguous. Convince the apathetic church and the unbelieving culture that there is a God in heaven who works on earth.”

We wait because we remember God’s presence - verse 1-4.

- The prophet wants to experience God himself, not some vague spirituality.
- The pattern in the history of revivals is often this: Before revival comes, God’s people return to God. They expect to encounter God.
- We want spiritual reality, God himself, to shake us to the core.

Psalm 84:2b (CSB) ... my heart and flesh cry out for the living God.

WHAT IS REVIVAL?

Revival is described, but not defined, in the Bible.

- The Day of Pentecost - Acts 2.
- Josiah’s revival - 2 Kings 22-23.

Psalms 85:6 (CSB) Will you not revive us again so that your people may rejoice in you?

Habakkuk 3:2 (CSB) LORD, I have heard the report about you; LORD, I stand in awe of your deeds. Revive your work in these years; make it known in these years. In your wrath remember mercy!

- “... a sovereign work of God in which the whole region of many churches and Christians has been lifted out of spiritual indifference and worldliness

into conviction of sin, earnest desires for more of Christ and his word, boldness in witness, purity of life, lots of conversions, joyful worship, renewed commitment to missions. You feel God has moved here” (<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-revival-and-where-do-we-find-it>)

- My definition of revival, based on the prayer in Isaiah 64 is this: Revival is an unusual experience of God’s presence and power that results in a renewed church and the advance of the Gospel.
- Bottom line: Revival is what happens when we encounter God.

WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO WAIT FOR REVIVAL?

Waiting is preparing.

- It’s about desperation. We’re not passive: we’re actively praying, repenting of sin, seeking the Lord, and pleading with him to show up in our day; the sooner, the better.
- We wait because we do not control God or revival. It is his sovereign work done in his time and in his way.

DO WE NEED REVIVAL?

Dr. Michael Brown writes that we need revival when:

- We are complacent and worldly
 - The lost are not getting saved
 - Young people are dropping out of church
 - We lack spiritual power and authority
 - Our nation is in a spiritual and moral nosedive
- (Revival Or We Die by Michael L. Brown. 2021)

D. L. Moody wrote about his personal revival leading to Gospel advance:

- "I cannot describe it, I seldom refer to it, it is almost too sacred an experience to name... I can only say God revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand. I went to preaching again. The sermons were not different; I did not present any new truths; and yet hundreds were converted. I would not now be placed back where I was before that blessed experience if you should give me all the world; it would be as small dust in the balance." (In Dallas Willard, Hearing God, 49)

Dr. Michael Brown writes:

- Simply stated, if the Bible is true (which it is), and if Jesus really rose from the dead and sent the Spirit (which he did), then there must be more. There has to be more. Every page in the New Testament shouts to us that there is more. Why not be honest and say it out loud: "God, I know there must be more!" ... He shed his blood so we could be transformed. So we could overcome the enemy. So we could be his Spirit-filled ambassadors. So we could set the captives free and heal the wounded and dying. There is so much more he still wants to do through you and me."

(Revival Or We Die by Michael L. Brown. 2021)

A FINAL WORD

Revival and spiritual awakening is the need of the hour.

- There has to be more, and that's why we desperately need revival. I need to be revived, and I assume you need it too.
- "Without a national awakening, America, as we know it is doomed" (Dr. Michael Brown)
- We wait in prayer, hunger, repentance, and expectation.
- Our prayer: We wait for you, Lord. Revive us with your Presence and Power for your glory. Amen."