

Personal Revival
A Historical Account of Great
Moves of God



By Karen Pulley

Revival

A Historical Account of Great Moves of God

"Wilt thou not revive us again..." (Psalm. 85:6)

"...Revive thy work in the midst of the years..." (Hab. 3:2)

"I just love the Lord Jesus with all my heart," said a young girl with such heartfelt emotion that her words sparked revival and triggered the Spirit to be poured out upon all who were gathered. All were deluged to tears. It was the beginning of a visible move of the Spirit that would in turn touch thousands of souls for Christ.

There are many such accounts of ordinary men and women with such soul wrenching burdens for the lost that they have confessed things such as:

"I shall die unless God sends a revival."

"Give me Scotland lest I die!"

How Does Revival Start?

Jessie Penn-Lewis asked *"Why does revival not come Lord?"* The Lord replied, *"I am ready but my children are not. Before it comes they must preach the word of the cross - the message of Calvary."*

Revival starts with believers who are dissatisfied with their own Christian experience and distressed with the condition of their churches. As Charles Finney put it, ***"Christians are more to blame for not being revived than sinners are for not being converted!"***

God said, *"If my people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).*

Revival starts with you and me getting right with God!
Revival starts with God moving in His people!

Personal revival is something only God can do in your life. Perhaps you feel the need for that today? Perhaps, like this young girl whose heartfelt words triggered such an outpouring of God's Spirit, your own heartfelt words could also spark a mighty move of God that would touch thousands of souls for Christ in our day.

This booklet was prepared to give you a glimpse of what happens when the Spirit of God moves through His people in such a powerful way that lives are changed, saints are revived, and sinners are redeemed. As you read these accounts of the great revival!

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them Whose heart is perfect toward Him?"
(2 Chr. 16:9)

THE WELSH REVIVAL

New Quay, 1904

The presence of the Spirit in the meetings was like a "wind" moving upon the people. All they did — the singing, the times of prayer, the testimonies, and the exhortations - was full of vital breath. Meetings would end, only to start up again two or three times as those gathered would cry for mercy or break out in joyful thanksgiving. Strong men and women - broken by the Spirit of God - were known to weep under the power of a young girl's prayer. The love among the believers was intense - the tenderness of prayer for others was irresistible! Many were baptized in the Spirit.

A pastor once closed in prayer with these simple words "**Bend us O Lord.**" (Bend in Welsh means entire submission to God).

Evan Roberts who was present at the time, was so moved by these words that he cried out, "Bend me O God, bend me O God, and bend us!" Later when asked what "bent" him, he said ***"I saw for the first time, Jesus died for ME. He bent me with His love."***

Indescribable scenes took place during this time of revival. Sometimes a torrent of prayer followed by a song would sweep over the audience and hundreds of souls would rise to declare their surrender to God.

There were many accounts of people's lives' being transformed:

- A grocer returned money that he had found in his shop and kept (even though he knew who dropped it).
- Long standing debts were paid.
- Stolen goods were returned.
- Prize fighters, gamblers, pub managers, bookies and others who never went to church were confessing Christ.
- Judges had no cases.
- Crime was down so much that policemen had nothing to do so they formed a singing quartet. What a thought!
- The mines slowed down

In one of the strangest documented accounts of the Welsh Revival it was reported that there was less production due to the mules not understanding the new commands they were being given. "Come on Bessie, you can do it girl." It seemed the 'language of Canaan - the praises of Heaven' which were now being spoken were foreign to the mules that were used to curses!

Entire populations were transformed into praying multitudes! Under the constraint of an unseen power, the chapels were filled.

Years later Evan Roberts drew four concise points in which revival may come and victories are won:

1. The past must be made clean by sin being confessed to God, and any doubtful things put away.

2. Right any known wrong done to man
3. Obey the Spirit promptly
4. Publicly confess Christ

Rees Howell

During this time of revival in Wales in 1904, God seemed to be asking a man by the name of Rees Howell to live out Romans 12:1 personally, *"Present your body a living sacrifice."* Rees felt the Lord saying to Him:

"As the Savior had a body, so I dwell in the cleansed temple of the believer. I am a person, I am God and I come to ask you to give your body for My temple. But it must belong to Me without reserve, for two persons with different wills can never live in the same body. Will you give Me yours? But if I come as God, you must go out. I shall not mix Myself with yourself".

Rees Howell struggled with being able to lay his will down (Romans 6). He said:

He made it very plain that He would never share my life. I saw the honor that He gave me in offering to indwell me, but there were many things very dear to me. I must lay them; all down at the cross. It was unconditional surrender. It was a death sentence to my flesh - as a prisoner on death row. I had lived in my body for 26 years, and could I easily give it up? But it had to be done.

Then the Spirit spoke to him saying:

"If you can't be willing, are you willing to be made willing?"

"How I adored the grace of God," Howell said. "It is God who goes so far as to give us repentance. It was God who helped me to give up my will!"

Visitation of the Spirit

Many years later, Rees Howell was led to purchase some property to start several Bible colleges. One account of that time records:

An awesome sense of God's nearness began to steal over the whole college. The students spent much time in prayer and supplication, conscious that He was about to do something. God was there - yet we felt we were still waiting for Him to come, and He came. He did not come like a mighty rushing wind. But gradually the person of the Holy Spirit filled all our thoughts, His presence filled all the place and His light seemed to penetrate all hidden recesses of our hearts. It was a 'face to face' experience. And when we saw Him we were like Job, 'I have heard of Thee by the hearing of my ear: but now my eye sees Thee' and like him we cried, 'Wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.' (Job 42:5-6)

In the light of His purity, it was not so much sin we saw as self.

We saw pride and self-motives underlying everything we had ever done. Lust and self-pity were discovered in places where we had never suspected them. The Spirit impressed on us '*Who is in control of your life, Me or you?*' He made it clear that He was not asking for service, but for sacrifice. '*Our God is a consuming fire*' His life was going to consume all that there was of ours.

He said:

I have not come to give you joy or peace or victory, I have not come to give you a blessing at all. You will find all that you need is Jesus, but I have come to put you on the cross, so that I may live in your body for the sake of the world (Colossians 3:3; 2 Corinthians. 4:10; Galatians. 2:20).

PERSONAL REVIVAL

(Thoughts taken from "*Personal Revival*" by Stanley Volk)

The way up is the way down. Our flesh loves to be in charge, be on the throne, be well regarded. We hate to be criticized, or to

humble ourselves. But we must humble ourselves if we want to walk with Him.

*He humbled Himself to the manger,
And even to Calvary's tree.
But I am so proud and unwilling,
His humble disciple to be.*

"Friend, come up higher" can only be said of the person who has gone lower. He who humbles himself, shall be exalted. Every man and woman in the Bible had to be humbled. God says He will look on the one Who is poor and of a contrite spirit and who trembles at My word (Isaiah 66:2).

Taking the "Sinners Place"

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling.

The "sinner's place" is the place of humility, where we take the blame and stop excusing sin saying, "I was not really myself when I did that." Instead we bow our heads confessing, "Yes Lord, that is what I am really like."

The Plumbline of God

Revival comes with repentance! How do we repent? We must see the Holiness of God, Remember Isaiah who said Woe to everyone else until he saw the Lord and then he said, "Woe" is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips! (Isaiah 6:5). Job said, "...But now my eye seeth Thee. Wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:5-6).

When revival comes every part of our lives are touched:

1. Our thought life — God desires truth in the inward parts (Psalm. 51:6).
2. Our motives are scrutinized - our hearts are so deceitful; that a good deed may be done just to look good to others.
3. Our speech — can salty, bitter water and sweet water come out of the same source? Never! If a jar is bumped and out comes filthy water, it is not the fault of the person who bumped it, but the keeper of the jar. The person just revealed what was already in the jar.

The Broken and Contrite Heart

An unbroken spirit is of the devil. Here is the root of our trouble. To be unbroken is a fearful thing. The devil's nature is so full of incurable pride that he can resist God forever. The Scriptures are full of stories of unbroken people, like Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar and King Saul, whom God had to break in judgment. It tells us of men like Jacob, Moses and David, whom God had to break before He could bless them.

We must understand the difference between the sorrow of the world, which produces death, and godly sorrow, which produces repentance. There is a false sense of being broken in which we feel sorry for ourselves. To be genuinely broken is when God has so dealt with us that we are truly sorry for our sin. True repentance brings joy! *"The bones which You have broken...rejoice"*(Psalm. 51:8).

*Neither passion nor pride, Thy cross can abide,
But melt in the fountain that streams from thy side.
Come then from above, it's hardness remove
And vanquish my heart with the sense of Thy love.*

We do not find it hard to bow and break to one another when we have been broken before God!

Often we are afraid of being broken. We think we are going to lose something, as though God would rob us of the best. Not so! From the scriptures we see such wonderful examples of this:

- Victory came to Gideon's army when the pitchers were *broken* to release the light within them.
- The *broken* bread fed the 5,000.
- The *broken* alabaster jar released the fragrance to all in the house.
- The *broken* body of Jesus gives us life.

Unless a grain of wheat fall into the ground and dies it abides alone. But if it dies (*is broken*) it bears much fruit (John. 12:24).

God blesses all whom He breaks!

The End of the Struggle

Seeing sin does not set us free. We need to see Jesus. For every one look at sin - take ten looks at Christ! Do not despair. Lazarus, though dead and rotting, was resurrected.

We struggle for righteousness rather than submitting to the righteousness of God.

We struggle for attainment. Are you living under the law? Under condemnation?

"If only I prayed more. If only I gave more."

If so, you are under the law and far from grace. God wants to set you free from dead works and give you rest. Take His yoke, upon you, which is easy.

We struggle for reputation. Jesus already accepts us! What more do we need?

We struggle for appearance. We want to appear so righteous in front of people; we must let this go. All the fitness He requires is that we feel our need of HIM.

What Jesus Does when He Comes

He comes to show Himself.

We do not need a report of Him; we need a revelation of Him.

Mere sermons and addresses, conventions and conferences mean nothing if He is not there.

In His presence is fullness of joy.

What Jesus Brings when he Comes

Revival is Jesus bringing the fullness of His life into the emptiness of ours.

His light for our darkness; life for our death,

Bread for our hunger, water for our thirst,

Rest for our striving, wisdom for our foolishness,

Fellowship for our loneliness.

We no longer blame our nerves, circumstances, or other people. Should someone point out some fault or criticize us, even unkindly, we do not argue and justify ourselves or try to explain things away. We save endless time and breathe when we come quickly to the "Sinners Place."

We must not avoid the "Sinners Place." Our flesh loves to not only avoid admitting we were wrong, but we love to take the position of corrector, as if it were our official job from God because, after all we see others SO clearly. Perhaps we are just seeing a reflection of ourselves. We find grace only in the Sinners Place.

EXPERIENCING REVIVAL

(Thoughts taken from "*Experiencing Revival*" by Charles Finney)

Revival is renewed conviction of sin and repentance followed by an intense desire to live in obedience to God. It is giving up one's will to God.

When to expect revival -- when there is a lack of brotherly love among believers. Expect a revival when there are dissensions, jealousies, and divisions among believers.

The Spirit of Prayer

A revival can be expected when Christians have the Spirit of Prayer for revival. It is the passion that moves them to pray unceasingly. It is the state of continual desire and anxiety for the salvation of sinners.

My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you, (Galatians 4:19)

One man on fire for prayer will ignite those around him. (Roman. 8:26, James 5:16)

Confession, Sacrifice, Determination

A revival is near when:

1. Christians begin to confess their sins to one another.
2. Christians are willing to make the sacrifices necessary to see revival.
3. Christians are unwavering in speaking the truth, no matter what the cost.

Preparing the Heart for Revival

"Break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you" (Hosea 10:12). Ask God to search your heart and be ready to repent of any sin He reveals.

Revival Prayer

Richard A. Bennett

2 Chronicles 7:14

Alfred B. Smith



1. Re - vi - val is my deep - est need. Lord, touch my life, I pray.
2. Your Blood can cleanse my heart from sin; Your Cross can deal with self
3. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, bless the Church With Your life - giv - ing pow'r,
4. For on - ly then the world will see The Church to health re - stored,
5. I bow be - fore You, pre - cious Lord, That You may have Your Sway.



From sin and self I would be freed. Ex - alt your name to - day.
Your Ris - en Power can reign with - in, Re - leas - ing heav'n - ly wealth.
Cause love to flow and face to glow In this cli - mac - tic hour.
And on - ly then our God will be Up - lift - ed and a - dored.
I hum - bly bend, that you may send Re - vi - val in our day.



Words © 1975 Richard A. Bennett

Music © 1975 Alfred B. Smith All rights reserved