



Are We Ready?

Revivals Start With Us

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. We hear two words frequently lately: revival and awakening.
- B. What does revival mean?
 - 1. Revival: the restoring of a being close to death back to life; renewed attention or interest in something.
 - 2. Revival is the visitation of God which brings to life believers who have been sleeping and restores a deep sense of God's near presence and holiness.
 - 3. Real revival comes only from God. He alone is the fountainhead. A spiritual awakening cannot be scheduled, worked up or humanly engineered.
- C. What does awakening mean?
 - 1. An act or moment of becoming suddenly aware of something
 - 2. A new revelation, breakthrough, or enlightenment that happens within one's spiritual life.
- D. What do they have in common?
 - 1. Both relate to a sudden awareness that one's life has strayed from God's plan for one's life.
 - a. Usually refers to an unbelieving person but can refer to an inattentive believer also.
 - 2. Both require one to return to God-focused lifestyle.
 - 3. Burning heart for God.
 - 4. God is in the business of reviving, restoring, renewing, returning, and bringing back the lost or wavering.
 - 5. At the base of revival is awakening of our hearts to God.
- E. One does not *watch* revival; one *awakens* to the need for personal change and revival follows.
- F. In 5 days starts the month of Elul, which is the run-up to the High Holy Days.
 - 1. The Fall Festivals are coming: the time when we anticipate the return of our Lord.
 - 2. If Yeshua were to return tomorrow would we be ready?
 - 3. The Fall Festivals are a time of repentance and a time of seeking a new beginning with God.
 - 4. Elul is a time of preparation; a time of setting our hearts on God; a time of reflection.
- G. Revival is the eager and excited turning to God initiated by the realization of a need for change.

II. GOD'S PLUMB LINE

- A. How do we know we need revival? How do we know we need a change in our heart?
- B. Amos 7:7-9 *⁷This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD asked me, "What do you see, Amos?" "A plumb line," I replied. Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. ⁹"The high places of Isaac will be destroyed, and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined; with my sword I will rise against the house of Jeroboam."*
 - 1. In Amos' day God's plumb line was his written word, the principles of right by which he sought to build the nation of Israel.
 - 2. In our day, as prophesied by v8, God's plumb line is the Living Word, Yeshua our Lord.
 - 3. Christ is the point from which we measure how far we have wandered.
 - a. Matthew 7:24-27 *²⁴"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."*

²⁶*But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.*”

b. 1Cor. 3:11 ¹¹*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

1) Christ is the Plumbline and Chief Cornerstone; without Him our house will fall.

2) The secure foundation is Jesus Christ.

C. From the point of believing, believers spend their lives building ‘a house of their spirit’.

1. If the house of our spirit is not lined up with God’s plumb line it will sag and crack.

2. Notice also the plumbness of our house is dependent on the hearing and doing the commands of Christ.

3. Our house is built on the foundation of Yeshua HaMassiach.

III. IS THERE AN AGENDA IN REVIVALS OR AWAKENINGS?

A. Return to God’s plumb line

1. All our thoughts and actions must be measured by the Living Word

a. Not a person’s wants.

b. Not public opinion

c. Not the rule of pleasure

1) Luke 12:13-21 ¹³*Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ ¹⁸“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’ ²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ ²¹“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”*

2. Thirst for truth

3. Prov. 14:12 ¹²*There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end, it leads to death.*

a. Without God’s plumbline we don’t have a standard by which to measure.

b. The world’s idols and value systems appear attractive on the surface but are vacuous and ineffectual.

4. When we say we need a revival, we really should say, “My heart needs to draw closer to God.”

a. God wants us to revive; the nation will follow.

B. Prayer for personal change

1. Help me draw close to Yeshua

a. Rom. 12:1-2 ¹*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.*

b. It is not possible to successfully stand in the middle of the road when it comes to faith.

c. There is great pressure to conform to the world’s value systems and compromise God’s.

d. True worship is not just singing at service but living a life worthy of the salvation we have received.

e. True worship is building a strong house of faith.

2. Create hunger and fire in me

a. Fight against complacency

- b. Arriving on ‘easy street’ is a fantasy
 - c. We must not live our lives as an animal unknowingly entering the slaughterhouse.
 - d. Must seek after God with every ounce of strength within us.
3. God is faithful when we are not
 4. Tune my ears to hear You.
 5. James 1:22-25 ²²*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.* ²³*Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror* ²⁴*and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.* ²⁵*But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.*
 - a. Just reading or listening to the Word as one might do with a novel is ineffective. We must hear and act.
 - i. We are not deceiving ourselves by listening to or reading the word; we do so by not acting on what we hear or read.
 - b. Same as a mason building a wall: If the wall is out of plumb, he doesn’t throw away the plumbline; he rebuilds the wall.

IV. WHERE AM I NOW?

- A. Revival starts with the realization of current condition.
 1. Repentance is found in the knowing
 - a. Acts 3:19-20 ¹⁹*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,* ²⁰*and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.*
 - b. Satan reminds us of our sins in order to judge and condemn and criticize.
 - c. God reminds us to help us heal, be cleansed, and draw near to Him.
 - d. Which voice will we listen to?
 2. Help me surrender my heart
 - a. In accepting Yeshua as our Lord, we were purchased by his blood and redeemed from sin.
 - b. What does that mean?
 - i. Matt. 16:24-25 ²⁴*Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.* ²⁵*For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.*
 - ii. Four steps:
 1. Surrender to Yeshua and go through life with Him as your partner and Savior.
 - 1] Hard to do because it goes against the grain of our stubborn and sinful hearts.
 - 2] Accept the expectations Yeshua places on us for our well-being.
 - b) Give up our self-will and accept Yeshua’s perfect will.
 - 1] Live on God’s terms.
 - 2] Surrender all areas of your life, not just the obvious ones.
 - c) We are crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20).
 - 1] Means our relationship with God could cost us family, friends, job, or even our life.
 - 2] Have to be willing to lose earthly things. They will eventually fade away anyway.
 - d) Follow Yeshua.
 - 1] Give up control; leave the world’s values behind.
 3. Break my heart with what breaks Yours.
- B. How can I get closer to God?
 1. Our exchanged life means we are already walking intimately with Him.
 2. But we let our sin-nature get in the way.

3. John 15:5 ⁵*“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*
 - a. Have to realize that everything we do in our own flesh amounts to nothing.
 - b. Subtle motivational difference in play here:
 - 1) Even pastors, some of whom seek the glory of the pulpit, are not exercising the exchanged life if they are conducting His work in their fleshly sinful natures.
 - 2) Have to humbly seek God’s will. That’s the whole point of the prayer chain.
 4. Christ is limited only by our unwillingness to allow Him to work through us.
 5. Gal. 2:20 ²⁰*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*
 - a. The resurrected life of Christ is made available to us through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. We can expose every temptation, opportunity, circumstance, and situation to the power of Christ because He lives in us and already knows the solution.
 6. Col. 2:6-10 ⁶*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. ⁹For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.*
 - a. Yeshua is filled with all the fullness of deity and we are filled with Him.
 - b. Since Yeshua is in us we are free from the burdens of the world.
 - c. Being freed from those burdens means we can focus on Yeshua.
 - d. Can seek greater intimacy with God.
 - e. The base of our house of faith, the root of our abiding in the Vine, is our dependence on Jesus.
 7. Eph. 4:22-24 ²²*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*
 - a. Having Christ in us means we have a new self.
 - b. Old self doesn’t like giving up control.
 - c. Old self still tries to direct our thinking and attitudes.
 - d. Righteousness here means to attain all the equitable, just, and loving attributes of God.
 - e. Ephesians is saying we can choose to live like Yeshua.
 8. Ps. 51:10-12 ¹⁰*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*
 9. Ps. 139:23-24 ²³*Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.*
 - a. Asking God to search our hearts means we must be willing to hear the answer.
 - b. Are we talking to God? Are we listening for His replies?
 - c. Are we willing to adjust our behavior?
- C. Am I ready for revival? Ran across this ‘On Fire’ test the other day. Had some ouches.
1. Do I look forward to hearing God’s Word read and explained?
 2. Do I make sacrifices to hear God’s Word? Have I let life interfere?
 3. Do I spend time reading God’s Word in private or in a small group?
 4. Have I noticed positive changes in my life because of God’s Word? Have others noticed?
 5. Have I recently responded to a newly perceived truth from God’s Word?
 6. Do I strive please the Lord in everything I do?

7. Do I avoid inwardly striving for the acclaim of this world rather than the approval of the Lord?
8. Am I able to forgive another believer for offending me?
9. Do I long to be in the presence of the Holy Spirit?
10. Do I have a regular prayer time that I follow at least 75% of the time?
11. Scoring:

9 - 10	flames are lighting the sky
7 - 8	smoking hot for God
5 - 6	glowing, but not burning
3 - 4	smoldering, but the embers are going out
<3	admit it: my fire is out. Time to get restarted.

V. GETTING RIGHT WITH GOD

- A. Are we sheep without a shepherd?
- B. John 5:19 *¹⁹Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.*
 - a. To be conformed to be like Yeshua, we must do as Yeshua did.
 - b. Look to see where God is moving, then do that (Pray and Obey).
- C. Live with a renewed mind.
 1. Rom. 12:1-2 *¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.*
- D. It would be foolish to spend a lifetime building our house of faith and never check God’s plumbline along the way.
 1. 2Cor. 13:5 *⁵Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?*
 - a. How do we measure up to the Living Word; God’s Plumbline?
 - b. Where have we strayed?
 2. 1Cor. 9:24-27 *²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. ²⁷No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*
 3. Heb. 12:1-3 *¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*
 4. 2Tim. 2:15 *¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*
- E. Our sin nature will certainly lead us astray unless we continually check ourselves against the plumbline.
- F. Study the Word to keep a check on ourselves.
- G. Revivals are God’s way of ‘re-upping’ with Him; His way of ‘hitting delete’.
 1. Do we see a need for revival in our land?
 2. That means our spirit is awakening and responding to Holy Spirit’s call to step up.
 3. Individual awakening precedes corporate revival.

4. Corporate revival is infectious; brings others in.
5. People drawing together to worship and grow sparks national revival.
6. National revival brings about change in society over time.

VI. WHY AM I HERE?

- A. Am I the random result of the intersection of time, space, and genetics?
- B. No, God has placed us here purposefully for 'such a time as this'.
- C. Consider the names given to previous generations
 1. People born during were called
 - 1890-1915 The Lost Generation
 - 1901-1926 The Greatest Generation
 - 1927-1945 The Silent Generation
 - 1946-1964 The Baby Boomer Generation
 - 1961-1981 Generation X
 - 1975-1995 Generation Y (Millennials)
 - 1995-2010 Generation Z
 2. Some accomplished great things; some didn't
- D. What will the current generation be known for?
 1. This is where Awakening, Revival, and Generation intersect.
 2. We have the holiest of opportunities before us!
 3. To allow our hearts to awaken more fully to God's love.
 4. To share His love with the world.
 5. To allow God's manifest Kingdom to operate through us.
 6. To see miracles of God's grace and mercy!
- E. This generation might become known as The Overcoming Generation!
- F. How?

VII. REFERENCES.

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FLOW OF THOUGHT

REVIVAL – AWAKENING – ELUL - GENERATIONS

Talk about revival and awakening

Meaning

‘Come to life’; usually think revival is focused on others not ourselves

How they have a negative connotation, but are actually exciting

Talk about God’s plumbline

Read Proverbs 14:12

MY PERSONAL PAIN?

We need an external measuring guide

Need to look to Yeshua for strength and direction

Used to say WWJD; now more important than ever

Read Matthew 7:24-27

Need to build our ‘house of faith’.

MATT 5,6,7 STRONG EXHORTATIONS

Talk about traversing the gap between current condition and plumbline

Agendas in revival

Return to the plumbline

Avoid personal wants, public opinion, rule of pleasure

Read Luke 12:13-21

Personal prayer for change

Read Romans 12:1-2

Middle of the road not possible; must be ‘all in’

True worship is building a strong house of faith

NORMA STORY?

Read James 1:22-25

Fight against complacency

Throw away the house, not the plumbline; start over if we need to

Where am I now

Consider our sin-nature; fights against the plumbline

Surrender my heart to Yeshua

Accept Yeshua’s perfect will; give up our own; relationship w/ Him

Be willing to lose for His sake; take up your cross

Crucified with Christ; live life on His terms

Get close to God

Read Galatians 2:20

Read Colossians 2:6-10

Yeshua frees us from burdens of the world

Seek intimacy w/God

Foundation of our house of faith is dependency on Yeshua

Mention ‘on-fire’ test in notes

It would be foolish to spend a lifetime building our house of faith and never check God’s plumbline along the way.

\\\\\\\\ Read 1Corinthians 9:24-27

Closing: Read generational names; offer the new name The Overcoming Generation

REVELATION CHURCHES

All 7 affirmed for some things

5 received reproofs

All promised blessings to those who were victorious

What would be said to the Church of Denver?