

Subject: *God's Recipe for Revival*

Scripture: *2 Chronicles 7:11-16*

This chapter is about Solomon and his dedication of God's Temple. Solomon prayed and God answered. God spoke to Solomon and the nation of Israel about the troubles they would encounter if they disobeyed God. He told them how to get right with God so He could restore and bless them again. We should remember that God was speaking directly to Solomon and Israel, but God was speaking indirectly to us today.

THE REASON FOR REVIVAL (vs. 12-13)

- God will bless a special place (vs. 12)

The Jews had three special places: the Tabernacle (a portable place of worship), the Temple (a permanent place of worship), and the synagogue (a local place of worship). At this time King Solomon dedicated the Temple. It was a special place of worship and sacrifice, and it was a place of prayer. In those days God had a temple for His people, but now He has a people for His temple. God can't be confined to one place at one time, but there are places where God reveals His presence in a special way. For us it is the place of worship in the house of God.

- God will bring severe punishment (vs. 13)

These are the very things that King Solomon prayed about (see 2 Chr. 6:24-31). God warned that judgment could come in the form of drought, a plague of locusts, or dread disease (pestilence). This implies that the people would disobey Him and disregard His Word. It would bring serious consequences. We are free to choose, but we are not free to choose the consequences of our choices. God warned Israel of the price they would pay if they turned away from Him. People ask: "How do you think God is going to judge America?" I believe He is already judging America, and the greatest punishment is that He is allowing us to reap the consequences of our own sins. God sends judgment as a wake-up call to His people.

THE RECIPE FOR REVIVAL (vs. 14)

Whenever you ladies bake a cake you have certain ingredients, don't you? You don't throw things into a bowl and expect it to come out right. God lays out a blueprint for blessing that shows the steps His people must take.

- Revival involves a special people (vs. 14)

God first spoke this to Israel, His people who were called by His name. God was not speaking just to King Solomon, not just to the priests, but to every person who is called by His name. I believe God is still speaking to His people, His children. We belong to Him by creation and by redemption. We are called by His name. We are Christians.

2 Timothy 2:19 *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

God's recipe for revival is all about God's people ("If my people which are called by my name..."). The key to revival is not what happens in the White House or the courthouse. The key is what happens in God's house and your house and my house. The key is God's people.

- Revival involves a simple plan (vs. 14) - It involves four things.
- We must humble ourselves

God humbled the nation of Israel, just as He said He would. But they needed to humble themselves. We must humble ourselves. We must see ourselves as God sees us.

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.*

- We must pray

We need to realize who we are praying to. He is the King of Kings seated on His throne. He is the Sovereign ruler of the universe, the creator of all things. In prayer we focus our hearts above the problems to the Problem-solver. ***Isaiah 26:3*** *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.* ***Jeremiah 32:17*** *Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.*

- We must seek God

If we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. We must long for God, seek His will and His blessing. We can't see God's face until we get to heaven. How do we seek His face? We meet with Him in His Word. If you seek God's face you really mean business. God does business with people who mean business. ***Isaiah 55:6-7*** ⁶ *Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:* ⁷ *Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

- We must turn from our wicked ways

God is calling us to turn away from sin and turn to Him. Wicked ways include anything and everything that is contrary to God and His will for our lives. It may be wicked actions or wicked attitudes. We must repent. It may be approval or acceptance of those who do wicked things. We must repent. Here's the problem: we don't want to say that anything is evil anymore. To say something is evil is to be judgmental and that is the unpardonable sin. To call something evil is not being judgmental. It is saying what God says about it. God makes the judgment and we say, "Amen." One of the names for scripture is God's judgments. ***Psalms 119:164*** *Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.* And there's another problem: we don't think of ourselves as wicked. Randy Alcorn said, "If you want to see the face of evil, just look in the mirror." ***Psalms 139:23-24*** ²³ *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:* ²⁴ *And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.* We must turn from our wicked ways. Repentance involves a change of mind, a change of attitude, and a change of will, that leads to a change of behavior. ***Proverbs 28:13*** *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth*

and forsaketh them shall have mercy. We must confess and forsake. We must not only be broken over our sins, but also be broken from our sins.

THE RESULTS OF REVIVAL (vs. 14)

God says He will do three things when we meet His conditions for revival.

- God will answer our prayers – He will show His goodness.
- God will forgive our sins – He will show His grace.
- God will heal our land – He will bless far beyond our own lives and families. Our land is sick and dying. We need God's healing power to make us well.

In verse 15, God promises that His eyes will be looking and His ears will be listening for His people to pray and repent. He is eager for us to turn to Him. He is waiting to bless. In verse 16, God says that His eyes and His heart would be in the Temple. I believe that His eyes and His heart are in the church. He promises to send revival, but only on His terms. Are we willing to do what He says?