

Do We Really Want Revival?

Revival is an encounter with God the Holy One, disclosed and made known. Revival removes the veil and makes things clear. Revival is stark and absolute, uncovering the nature of man and revealing the glory of God. In the end, it boils down to this: Do we really want God to live in our midst? (Don't answer that question too quickly. Mull it over and ask for insight. The picture is bigger than you may realize!) Revival brings things to light, deep sentiments surface with a vengeance. It is difficult to remain neutral when God is visiting His own!

Jesus upsets our routine and His very presence brings to light the hidden attitudes of the heart...Revival is often the making or breaking point of many a church and minister. It forces us to deal with the most fundamental of all spiritual issues: What will we do with Jesus? How will we respond to the Lord? Here He is in our midst! How is it possible that everything will not be radically affected? The world itself has not been the same since Jesus arrived on the scene.

He brings judgment, not just joy. He comes with claims, not just charisma. He is demanding, not just delightful. He is the Lord of all, not just lovely and adorable. He refuses to merely "fit in." When did He ever make a deal with someone? When did He say, "Choose your terms"? When did He tell a potential disciple, "Surrender half-that's enough," or "Three-quarters is sufficient"? Absolutely not. He died for us all, and He died for all of each of us. He expects all in return. Encountering the Son of God is radical. Surrender is total and absolute.

Yet, we often drift from this truth. We serve God out of habit and worship Him by rote. We divide our life into little compartments. We give Jesus a nice compartment of His own! But, when He comes in revival power, when He is glorified in the midst of His people, then He stakes His claims and renews His rights over the flock He purchased with His blood. He is still the Head of the Body, and He takes that headship seriously!

We don't just add Him in for thrills - along with some neat manifestations of the Spirit for an added attraction. We don't simply invite Him to show up for a few hours each night and then leave Him at the church building. He is the fullness of God in bodily form (Col. 2:9), the all-consuming fire, the Lord of glory. And, when we cry, "Come, Lord! Consume me!" He just might do that very thing.

"Who are You, Lord?" is a common question during revival. We see Jesus as He really is. For some, this is quite a shock! Revival is always more than we asked for and reckoned for. That's why lots of people check out. They prefer to maintain their rights. They like their seat on the throne. This is the sentiment that has cut short many a revival: "We like things the way they used to be!"- to which God may say, "Fine! Have it your way." But, the results will be catastrophic. For where God's Spirit is not valued, His manifest presence will soon vanish.

We cannot afford the consequences of spurned revival in this day. I tremble to think of what that could mean for America and the world. God's people have been praying and fasting for years, crying out to the Lord of the rain clouds to inundate us with His showers. There is now a window of opportunity for our nation. But, when the torrents come, will we say, "It's too wet! It's too stormy! I liked the dry weather better"? May it not be so! We need the floodgates of heaven to burst open so the divine tidal wave will come. Let it flush out what it must. Let it wash away everything that is not built on the Rock. Let it bring to the surface all the muck and mire. Whatever the consequences, we need the floods! We need the glorious Lord glorified in our midst again. "Come, Lord, consume us with Your flames! We mean it with all our hearts." Excerpts from Brown, *High Voltage Christianity*, 54-60.