



Five Ingredients Of Revival Churches

“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy”

(Acts 2:16-18).

“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved”

(Acts 2:47).

Revival Churches Are

Churches with a VISION

“And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams” (Acts 2:17).

Helen Keller was both blind and deaf. She overcame these handicaps and raised money for the blind through the sale of her books and her lectures. She was once asked, “What is worse than being blind?” She quickly responded, “Having sight, but not being able to see.”

As Peter, on the Day of Pentecost repeated the Old Testament prophecy concerning the visitation of God’s Spirit upon all flesh, he reiterated that young men shall see visions, and old men shall dream dreams. The wise man wrote, “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18). One writer rearranged the words in the positive; “Where there is a vision, the people flourish.”

Ed Roebert agrees, “Vision is the key to achievement. Without it, confusion reigns. With it, the future is filled with excitement. Many churches have no vision for their future. Many pastors have no vision for their lives. Having no purpose in life results in frustration, lack of motivation and a growing futility.”

Casey Treat adds, “It is a purpose for life that is strong enough to motivate you everyday; strong enough to motivate you into action.” (*Church Management: Leading People in Church Growth*)

Vision is derived from a word that means, “see.” This is an excellent word to describe seeing or looking forward. Vision suggests a future direction. Jonathan Swift in *Gulliver’s Travels* wrote, “Vision is the art of seeing things invisible.”

As leaders, we need a mindset that looks forward. It is important for us to continually improve. According to the law of sowing and reaping, we reap today what was sown yesterday.

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7).

Our challenge is to develop leaders who are able to facilitate God-given revival. Revival and church growth can best be achieved following God’s direction. We tend to look at the closest church having revival and copy what they are doing.

“Do not follow where the path may lead. . . .

Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” (Anonymous)

Satan Tries to Blind Us

It is the will of God to open our eyes (Luke 4:18). It is the devil's will to blind us.

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

Jesus Came to Open Our Eyes

Jesus announced His purpose, vision, and direction in coming to the earth.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19).

Three times Jesus includes preaching in His purpose statement. He came to provide for the recovery of sight for the blind. This includes both physical and spiritual blindness.

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

What Do You See?

Zechariah was asked in Zechariah 4:2, "What seest thou?" What do you see? Do you see a great end-time revival?

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams" (Acts 2:17).

You may feel that revival cannot happen in your town or country. The Scripture disagrees. "I will pour out of my Spirit upon ALL flesh." This includes where you are.

You may think, "But this place is full of sin and iniquity. God cannot move here." Again, Scripture disagrees.

"Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Romans 5:20).

You may ask, "But isn't there going to be a great falling away?" First of all, make up your mind that you will never fall away. You have come too far to quit now. Jesus is coming soon!

"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:11-14).

Revival Churches Focus on

JESUS CHRIST

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8). For some reason, we find it easy to believe God for revival anywhere but here.

Things That Never Change

& Anything Jesus has ever done, He can do today.

& Anything Jesus is doing anywhere else; He can do it where you are.

& Anything Jesus has done for anyone, He can do for you.

"In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the

temple” (Isaiah 6:1).

People need to see GOD! They need to put their confidence in the God who does not fail. Man can fail, but God never fails.

“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” (Numbers 23:19).

Revival Churches Are

PRAYING CHURCHES

Prayer brings the power of God.

It allows people to see God’s POWER.

When the church puts emphasis on prayer, revival happens. Prayer is dealt with in other lessons, but let us look at a few of the scriptural promises concerning prayer.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not” (Jeremiah 33:3).

“And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves” (Matthew 21:13).

“Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession” (Psalms 2:8).

No Prayer—No Power

Little Prayer—Little Power

Much Prayer—Much Power

When you arrive for church and a mighty prayer meeting is going on, you know that the service will be filled with the power of God. Much emphasis should be placed on prayer in each service.

Revival Churches Are WORSHIPPING CHURCHES

Worship brings the presence of God.

It allows people to feel God’s PRESENCE.

When we praise and worship God, He comes to where we are. He is looking for those who worship Him from a pure heart, in spirit and in truth.

”But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24).

“But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel” (Psalm 22:3).

“Praise ye the Lord. Praise, O ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and for evermore. From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to

be praised” (Psalm 113:1-3).

Revival Churches PREACH TRUTH and LOVE HOLINESS

Holiness allows others to see—

GOD IN US.

A church that seeks revival must preach the truth of God’s Word. The reference point for revival and an outpouring of the Spirit is found in Acts 2. We must preach the Acts 2:38-39 message if we expect to receive the results evidenced in the Book of Acts.

“But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

God looks on the heart and sees deep inside a person’s life. The only way that people can know that we are truly living for God is by our outward appearance. They judge us based on the fruit we bear.

”O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth” (Psalms 96:9). Holiness is beautiful.

The writer of Hebrews advises, “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). Through the life of holiness that we live, others can see the Lord in us.

Study Questions

1. What is the result of lack of vision?

2. What is meant by “vision”?

3. What is the law of sowing and reaping?

4. Who can best give direction for revival and church growth?

5. How many times was preaching mentioned in Jesus’ purpose statement (Luke 4:18-19)?

6. What was promised concerning the end times in Acts 2:17?

7. What answer would you give to someone who says, “This place is so full of sin that God cannot move here”?

8. List three things mentioned in this lesson that never change about Jesus.

9. In Isaiah 6:1 what happened when Uzziah died?

10. Prayer brings the _____ of God.

11. What happens when churches put emphasis on prayer?

12. According to Psalms 2:8, how can we evangelize (receive) the uttermost parts of the earth?

13. Worship brings the _____ of God.

14. Holiness allows others to see _____ in us.

15. What/where is the biblical reference point for revival?

16. How do others judge whether we are living for God?
