

# REVIVAL

2 Chronicles 7:14

## ATTENTION:

Sin is having a hay day in our country – there is a never-ending flow of unbelief, immorality, dishonesty, abortion, addiction, disregard of God at every level!

- So many lives and families are in a mess and as a result our nation is in bad shape.
- The problem with our nation is not a political problem
  - Throwing more money at it and making laws will not fix it!
  - The problem is not a philosophical or educational problem
- The problem with our nation is a heart problem
  - We as a nation have turned away from God
  - We've kicked Him out of our government/schools and wonder why young/old are going off the deep end
- The problem is not so much in the schoolhouse/political houses but rather the church house.

**ATTUNE:** Let's consider a passage from the OT that will speak to our discussion. (Discuss passage as read)

*11 When Solomon had finished the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the Lord and in his own palace, 12 the Lord appeared to him at night and said:*

*“I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices.*

*13 “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, 14 **if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.** 15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. 16 I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.*

2 Chronicles 7:11-16

- So, the Lord told Solomon that if His chosen people (Jews) turn from Him and He curses their land that He will forgive them and restore the land.

- *If* they meet certain requirements set by Him.
- We know that this passage is written specifically to the Jews
- But the NT says that all the things that happened to the Jews were meant to be examples to us.
- There are some great lessons we can learn from this example

Let's see what is involved in REVIVAL!

## BODY:

### I. Look Around To See The Environment In Which We Live

- A. There is an abundance of evidence that God is not in the hearts and minds of many of our nation's people.
1. The world has always been the world but the degree of the wickedness is growing deeper and deeper around us:
    - a. The family is under attack from all sides.
      - (1) The very basics of what is a family and marriage is being challenged.
      - (2) Sex outside of marriage has become common place.
      - (3) Pornography is a billion dollar epidemic.
      - (4) Drug/alcohol abuse is destroying lives – epidemic.
    - b. Christianity is constantly being ridiculed from all sides

### II. Remember Who You Are

*v. 14 If my people, who are called by my name*

- A. These phrases tell us this verse is to those who know the Lord.
1. This is not a charge that applies to anyone, anywhere.
  2. God limits this charge to those who are *his people*.
    - a. God has a special relationship with the Christian
    - b. He calls us to do His work, Grow more and more like Jesus and impact the world and people around us in His name.
- B. It is the call to...
1. *Go make disciples of all nations of Matthew 28*
  2. *Love your neighbor as yourself* of the greatest command.
  3. It is the *be ready to give an answer to those who ask about the hope within you* of 1 Peter 3:15
  4. It is the *knowing what is means to fear the Lord we persuade men* of 2 Cor 5:11

### III. Humble Yourself

v. 14 *If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves*

- A. Today we think of a humble person as one who is very nice or quiet - one who gives in or goes along with everything
- B. The word literally means to *bow the knee in subjection to*
  - 1. Used when describing the military defeat of an enemy
  - 2. *To subdue an enemy or cause them to surrender*
- C. God wants us to surrender every area of our lives to His control
  - 1. To bend the knee in allegiance to Him
  - 2. It has been said, *“the Christian life is one big yes, followed by a bunch of little yes’s”*
    - a. The big yes is salvation – God I want to be Yours.
    - b. Then as we grow in the Lord – We learn things we need to incorporate into our lives or things we need to get rid of and we say yes each time.
- D. Humility is not walking around saying I’m a nobody.
  - 1. It is acknowledging that we owe everything to God
  - 2. Are we humble/pliable to the working of God?  
Or proud/hardened towards God in any area of our lives?

### IV. Pray v. 14 *...shall humble themselves and pray...*

- A. Is a natural part of a relationship with God.
  - 1. It is the expression of relationship – evidence of relationship
  - 2. If revival is to occur it will require prayer from the one to be renewed
- B. What is prayer?
  - 1. Making a request of God for ourselves
    - a. This is easy for most—asking for ourselves.
  - 2. Making request for someone else
    - a) Loved ones as well as for other individuals or peoples
  - 3. Worshiping, Praising, acknowledging His greatness, etc.
    - a. This is a constant adoration of God – Living in a constant state of awe of God!
    - b. **Praising God continually will revolutionize our lives.**
      - Seeing His majesty and goodness in everything good
      - Recalling His blessings at every turn
      - Acknowledging His presence with us always.

### V. SEEK HIS FACE

v. 14 *Shall humble themselves and pray and seek My face...*

- A. Seek for God - Desire an audience with God
  - 1. To seek His will for us, His desire, His truths/commands.
  - 2. To seek Him for who He is and surrender to Him.
- B. Notice that He didn’t say, “Seek my hand”
  - 1. When scripture talks about God’s hand it refers to what He can do or what He possesses
  - 2. The face rather refers to the countenance and reveals the character of a person or who they really are.
  - 3. This is not saying, “God what can you do for me?”
  - 4. But rather, “God what can I do for you?”

### VI. TURN v. 14 *and turn from there wicked ways.*

- A. A simple call - if we are going down a wrong path in any area of life – we need to turn around and go the right direction
  - 1. Repentance
  - 2. Christians it can happen to us – We can be going down the wrong path and need to turn around!
  - 3. **Is the direction of your life taking you toward Christ likeness?**
  - 4. Are the directions you are choosing bringing your family closer to faith and spiritual growth?
  - 5. What is the trajectory of your life in Christ? Where does it ultimately lead?

### PROJECT:

How will God change our nation? – By changing a state.  
How will God change a state? – By changing a county.  
How will God change a county? – By changing a town.  
How will God change a town? – By changing a church.  
How will God change a church? – By changing a family.  
How will God change a family? – By changing us.

Someone once asked an old-time evangelist to explain the best method to start a revival. He answered,

*“Take a piece of chalk and mark a circle on the floor, get down on your knees inside the circle and pray to God to start a revival inside this circle. When this prayer is answered, the revival will be on.”*