

Revive Us Again

David Feddes

Ugly preacher in Rogues Harbor

Presbyterian Pastor James McGready, known as “the ugly preacher,” had three small churches in Logan County in southwest Kentucky. The area was called Rogues Harbor. “Here many refugees from almost all parts of the Union fled to escape justice or punishment.... It was a desperate state of society. Murderers, horse thieves, highway robbers, and counterfeiters fled there, until they combined and actually formed a majority.” (Peter Cartwright)

McGready's covenant

We feel encouraged to unite our supplications to a prayer-hearing God for the outpouring of his Spirit, that his people may be quickened and comforted, and that our children, and sinners generally, may be converted. Therefore, we bind ourselves to observe the third Saturday of each month, for one year, as a day of fasting and prayer for the conversion of sinners in Logan county, and throughout the world. We also engage to spend one half hour every Saturday evening, beginning at the setting of the sun, and one half hour every Sabbath morning, from the rising of the sun, pleading with God to revive his work.

A mighty outpouring

“A mighty effusion of the Spirit came upon the people, and the floor was soon covered with the slain; their screams for mercy pierced the heavens... The power of God seemed to shake the whole assembly. Toward the close of the sermon, the cries of the distressed arose almost as loud as his voice... No person seemed to wish to go home—hunger and sleep seemed to affect nobody—eternal things were the vast concern. Here awakening and converting work was to be found in every part of the multitude; and even some things strangely and wonderfully new to me.”



Revive us again

(Psalm 85)

- Remembering past revivals
- Recognizing present need for revival
- Praying for revival
- Expecting revival
- Results of revival

Remembering past revivals

¹ LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

² You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin. Selah

³ You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

- God's people have a history of sinning and falling under God's frown.
- God has a history of pouring out fresh grace, reviving his people and his land.

Remembering past revivals

- Rescue from Egypt and golden calf
- Ruin and revival in the era of Judges
- Revival during Hezekiah's reign
- Rediscovery of the book of the Law led to repentance and revival under Josiah.
- Return from exile; rebuilding of the temple and the city walls; renewal of worship (prayers of Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah)
- Outpourings of the Spirit in Book of Acts

Remembering past revivals

- The Pre-Reformation Revival (1300-1500)
Lollards, Wycliffe, Hus, Savonarola
- The Protestant Reformation (1517)
Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Knox
- First Great Awakening (1730-1750)
Edwards, Whitefield, Wesley
- Second Great Awakening (1780-1810)
McGready, Cane Ridge, colleges
- The Layman's Prayer Revival (1857-1861)
Phoebe Palmer, Lanphier, Moody
- The 1904 Revival: Wales, Korea, Azusa St.

Recognizing present need

⁴ Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!

⁵ Will you be angry with us forever? Will
you prolong your anger to all generations?

- When the church lacks vibrant life and has little impact on those around us, we must not pretend all is normal.
- Our chief trouble is not that the world is too strong or our problems are too big, but that God is not smiling on us.

Grieving the Spirit

Whenever Israel is down and defeated, it is never because of the strength and power of the enemy. No, because if they are right with God, it does not matter what the enemy is, however powerful, God will always make them victorious... What has happened is that the Church herself, in her unutterable folly, has rebelled against God, and grieved, and vexed his Holy Spirit, in exactly the same way Israel did, in belief and in practice... The Church has only one source of strength, and that is the power of God, the power of his Holy Spirit. (Martyn-Lloyd Jones, *Revival*)

Praying for revival

⁶ Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?

⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

- In revival God comes near in his awesome holiness and power.
- In revival God's Spirit floods people with life and love.
- In revival people rejoice in their glorious God.

Praying for revival

- Jonathan Edwards: *An humble attempt to promote explicit agreement and visible union of God's people, in extraordinary prayer, for the revival of religion and the advancement of Christ's kingdom on earth*



In 1857 North Dutch Reformed Church in New York City asked Jeremiah Lanphier to be a missionary. He announced a prayer meeting for noon on a Wednesday.

HOW OFTEN SHALL I PRAY?

As often as the language of prayer is in my heart; as often as I see my need of help; as often as I feel the power of temptation; as often as I am made sensible of any spiritual declension or feel the aggression of a worldly spirit. In prayer we leave the business of time for that of eternity... This meeting is intended to give merchants, mechanics, clerks, strangers, and business men generally an opportunity to stop and call upon God. (Jeremiah Lamphier's invitation)

The Layman's Prayer Revival

- Within six months, more than 10,000 were at the New York prayer meetings. Within two years, more than a million converts joined America's churches, plus countless conversions among church people.
- In Northern Ireland James McQuilken began praying in a schoolhouse with two others. In Wales Humphrey Jones started praying. More than a million in Britain were converted and joined churches.

**Will you not revive us again, that your
people may rejoice in you? (Psalm 85:6)**



Expecting revival

⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

⁹ Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

- God's Spirit brings assurance of shalom (peace/wellbeing). Seek and expect this.
- Revival brings far richer experience of salvation to the saints and makes their land a home for God's glory.

Times of refreshing

- Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before... And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people (Joel 2:23-28)
- Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. (Acts 3:19)

Results of revival

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

¹¹ Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

¹² Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

- Revival brings a rich harvest of love, faithfulness, righteousness, and peace.

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