

# **What Happens in Revival?**

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# **What happens in revival?**

**The Holy Spirit comes afresh!**

**Pentecost is repeated!**

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4:31)

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. (Acts 10:44)

## **Congo Revival (1953)**

Medical missionary Dr. Helen Roseveare:

The first day revival came to Ibambi, the actual building shook. We were sitting in the Bible School hall. It was seven o'clock on a Friday night. Jack Scholes, our field leader, had just come back from a trip in the south and he had seen revival down there. He stood up to speak about the revival and started to read from scriptures. Suddenly we heard a hurricane storm. It was frightening!

## **Congo Revival (1953)**

We looked out and it was moonlight and the palm trees were standing absolutely still against the moonlit sky. It should have been pitch-black and stormy. Then the building shook and the storm lanterns down the centre of the building moved around. There was a terrific noise and a sense of external power around. We were all frightened—there must have been about five whites and 95 Africans present. You could sense fear all around.

## **Congo Revival (1953)**

Jack stood at the front and said to us, “This is of God, just pray—don't fear and don't interfere.” It was as if a force came in and we were shaking. There was no way you could control it and some were thrown to the ground off the benches as if someone had hurled them down! But no one was hurt. Everyone ceased to be conscious of anyone else.

## **Congo Revival (1953)**

People began to confess publically what you might call “big sin” (and these were all Christians). They spoke of adultery, cheating, stealing, deceit. One friend, whom I thought too good to be true, was crying out to God for mercy and confessing her sins. I couldn't imagine she'd done anything wrong! We didn't leave the hall that whole weekend! Most of the time God was dealing with our sins.

## **Congo Revival (1953)**

Some needed help from the pastors who moved around with much wisdom and encouragement. Then joy struck the repentant sinners and the pastors moved on. It was remarkable what discernment was given to these uneducated pastors. I remember they discerned that one lady's confession wasn't real and they urged her to confess what was really inside her.

## **Congo Revival (1953)**

There were amazing visions from people which were often based on Old Testament scriptures—even though they didn't have the Old Testament! I remember one woman standing up with her arms upraised and her face radiant, talking about wheels within wheels and eyes within the wheels and patterns and above it all a great rainbow. It was straight out of Ezekiel



## **Congo Revival (1953)**

She spoke of the glory and began weeping when she said she saw the glory was in the midst of the Bible School and then it went out of the hall, across the courtyard and into the forest. She broke down, crying, “It's because of our sin, our sin!”

## **Congo Revival (1953)**

The white people just sat back and watched at first and the Bible School students held back. It was all right for the village people, but not for us! But God broke into the Bible School. We were soon broken down as well.

## **Congo Revival (1953)**

There were also amazing visions of hell and people would break down weeping because of unsaved relatives. They carried exhausting prayer burdens. What started off as a ten minute prayer meeting lasted three hours. We didn't discuss anything, we spoke with God. There were waves of outpoured prayer. Some went off at 4 a.m. on one occasion and walked twelve miles to a village, compelled by the Holy Spirit, to share the gospel. Many were saved as a result.

## **Congo Revival (1953)**

In the years following the initial work, revival blessing came in waves. But I still wasn't being revived myself! I was frantic—there was a coldness in my heart. I was saying the right things, doing the right things and being the right things, but somehow I was outside all that was happening. I spent a long weekend crying out to God. There was little of victory in my life. I was frustrated, hurt and empty, knowing the right answers but getting nowhere.

## **Congo Revival (1953)**

On the Saturday night I went to one of the pastors and his wife and said, "Please help me!" His response was clear although he was very gentle: "We can see so much Helen and we can't see Jesus. Everything revolves around your vision, your work, what you will do." I knew he was right. That was all he said, but somehow Jesus was there. I spent the following ten days in the presence of the Lord, broken. It was wonderful.

## **Congo Revival (1953)**

I remember one time I was visiting the sick wife of one of the evangelists. I was driving through a dirt track and came to the top of a hill and then suddenly saw this forest fire.

The fire was at the village where we were going and it lit up the whole sky. We walked the last few miles but as we got closer I was struck that there was no noise! That was strange. Forest fires have an enormous roar, louder than a plane. As we got closer there was also no heat!

## **Congo Revival (1953)**

As we entered the village one house was ablaze which was the pastor's house—but there were no people about. Again that was strange because everyone would have been out to beat the fire. Suddenly, there was this terrifying sense of awe. We went into the “blazing” house with flames everywhere but nothing was burned. The people inside were praising the Lord as the pastor's wife had died and gone to be with Jesus. The Shekinah glory had truly come down on them.

## **Congo Revival (1953)**

The rebellion came twelve years after the revival first hit us. It was a terrible and appalling time when a quarter of a million people were murdered out of a population of 15 million. Many of them were Christians. The revival made us ready for all this and carried us through the suffering.  
(Dr. Helen Roseveare)



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# **What happens in revival?**

- Believers pray eagerly and urgently.
- God shows his presence and power.
- Awe, guilt, and dread overwhelm many.
- Jesus is exalted and experienced in a flood of love, joy, and peace.
- The Spirit empowers believers for bold witness to win many unbelievers.

# God's presence and power

... a sound like the blowing of a violent wind... tongues of fire (Acts 2:2-3)

... the place where they were meeting was shaken (Acts 4:31)

The Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. (Acts 10:44)

Falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you. (1 Corinthians 14:25)

## **Awe, guilt, dread**

They were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37)

Suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground. (9:3-4)

They were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. (19:17-18)

# **Korean Pentecost (1907)**

Each felt as he entered the church that the room was full of God's presence... a sense of God's nearness impossible of description... He came to us in Pyongyang that night with the sound of weeping. As the prayer continued, a spirit of heaviness and sorrow for sin came down upon the audience.

(William Blair)

# **Korean Pentecost**

Man after man would rise, confess his sins, break down and weep, and then throw himself to the floor and beat the floor with his fists in a perfect agony of conviction. My own cook tried to make a confession, broke down in the midst of it, and cried to me across the room, “Pastor, tell me, is there any hope for me, can I be forgiven?” and then he threw himself to the floor and wept and wept, and almost screamed in agony. (Graham Lee)

# **Korean Pentecost**

Sometimes after a confession, the whole audience would break out in audible prayer, and the effect of that audience of hundreds of men praying together in audible prayer was something indescribable. Again, after another confession, they would break into uncontrollable weeping, and we would all weep, we could not help it. And so the meeting went on until two o'clock a.m., with confession and weeping and praying. (Graham Lee)

# **Korean Pentecost**

*Korean Elder Kim confessed hatred for the missionary, William Blair.* Turning to me, he said, “Can you forgive me, can you pray for me?” I stood up and began to pray, “Father, Father,” and got no further. It seemed as if the roof was lifted from the building and the Spirit of God came down from heaven in a mighty avalanche of power upon us. I fell at Kim's side and wept and prayed as I had never prayed before.



# **Korean Pentecost**

My last glimpse of the audience is photographed indelibly on my brain. Some threw themselves full length upon the floor, hundreds stood with arms outstretched toward heaven. Every man forgot every other. Each was face to face with God. I can hear yet that fearful sound of hundreds of men pleading with God for life, for mercy.

# Korean Pentecost

The missionaries and Korean church leaders asked, “What shall we do? If we let them go on like this some will go crazy.” But we dared not interfere. We had prayed to God for an outpouring of His Spirit upon the people and it had come.

*They went around the room from person to person, speaking of God’s pardon and peace.* Finally Mr. Lee started a hymn and quiet was restored during the singing.

# **Korean Pentecost**

Then began a meeting the like of which I had never seen before, nor wish to see again unless in God's sight it is absolutely necessary. Every sin a human being can commit was publicly confessed that night. Pale and trembling with emotion, in agony of mind and body, guilty souls, standing in the white light of that judgment, saw themselves as God saw them. Their sins rose up in all their vileness, till shame and grief and self-loathing took complete possession; pride was driven out, the face of men forgotten.

# **Korean Pentecost**

Looking up to heaven, to Jesus whom they had betrayed, they smote themselves and cried out with bitter wailing, “Lord, Lord, cast us not away forever!” Everything else was forgotten, nothing else mattered. The scorn of men, the penalty of the law, even death itself seemed of small consequence if only God forgave... I know now that when the Spirit of God falls upon guilty souls, there will be confession, and no power on earth can stop it. (William Blair)

# **Korean Pentecost**

We may have our theories of the desirability or undesirability of public confession of sin. I have had mine; but I know now that when the Spirit of God falls upon guilty souls, there will be confession, and no power on earth can stop it. (William Blair)

## **Manchurian Revival (1908)**

Hitherto I have had a horror of hysterics and emotionalism in religion, and the first outbursts of grief from some men who prayed displeased me exceedingly. I didn't know what was behind it all. Eventually, however, it became quite clear that nothing but the mighty Spirit of God was working in the hearts of men. (Jonathan Goforth)

## **Manchurian Revival (1908)**

A power has come into the church that we cannot control if we would. It is a miracle for a stolid, self-righteous Chinaman to go out of his way to confess sins that no torture could force from him; for a Chinaman to demean himself to crave, weeping, the prayers of his fellow believers is beyond all human expectation. (Jonathan Goforth)

## **Manchurian Revival (1908)**

On entering the pulpit, I bowed as usual for a few moments in prayer. When I looked up it seemed to me as if every last man, woman and child in that church was in the throes of judgment. Tears were flowing freely, and all manner of sin was being confessed. (Jonathan Goforth)



## Manchuria (1908)

Jonathan Goforth: Perhaps you will say it's a sort of religious hysteria. So did some of us. But here we are, [people with] all shades of temperament [and] every one who has seen and heard what we have, every day last week, is certain there is only *one* explanation—that it is God's Holy Spirit manifesting himself... One clause of the Creed that lives before us now in all its inevitable, awful solemnity is, “I believe in the Holy Spirit.”

# **What happens in revival?**

- Believers pray eagerly and urgently.
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- Jesus is exalted and experienced in a flood of love, joy, and peace.
- The Spirit empowers believers for bold witness to win many unbelievers.

## **Peace, love, joy in Jesus**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

(Romans 5:1,5)

You believe in Jesus and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy (1 Peter 1:8)

# Joy

... glad and sincere hearts, praising God  
(Acts 2:46-47)

There was great joy in that city. (Acts 8:8)

He went on his way rejoicing. (Acts 8:39)

The disciples were filled with joy and with  
the Holy Spirit. (Acts 13:52)

He was filled with joy because he had  
come to believe in God—he and his whole  
family. (Acts 16:34)

## **Great Awakening, USA (1734)**

The town seemed to be full of the presence of God: it never was so full of love, nor so full of joy; and yet so full of distress as it was then. There were remarkable tokens of God's presence in almost every house. It was a time of joy in families on the account of salvation being brought unto them; parents rejoicing over their children as newborn, and husbands over their wives, and wives over their husbands. (Jonathan Edwards)

## **Great Awakening, USA (1734)**

These words—“The Comforter is come!”—were accompanied to my soul with such conscious certainty, and such intense joy, that immediately it took away my strength... The name—“The Comforter”—seemed to denote that the Holy Spirit was the only and infinite Fountain of comfort and joy, and this seemed real and certain in my mind. These words—“The Comforter”—seemed as it were immensely great, enough to fill heaven and earth.” (Sarah Edwards)

## **Great Awakening, USA (1734)**

So conscious was I of the joyful presence of the Holy Spirit, I could scarcely refrain from leaping with transports of joy... my soul was filled and overwhelmed with light, and love, and joy in the Holy Ghost. I wished to have the world join me in praising him; and was ready to wonder how the world of mankind could lie and sleep, when there was such a God to praise, and rejoice in. (Sarah Edwards)

## **Great Awakening, USA (1734)**

The light and comfort which some of them enjoy give a new relish to their common blessings, and cause all things about them to appear as it were beautiful, sweet, and pleasant. All things abroad, the sun, moon, and stars, the clouds and sky, the heavens and earth, appear as it were with a cast of divine glory and sweetness upon them... The supreme attention of their minds is to the glorious excellencies of God and Christ; and there is very often a ravishing sense of God's love accompanying a sense of his excellency. (Jonathan Edwards)



## **Welsh Revival (1906)**

Eyewitness account: “Prayer and hymn followed and mingled, without a single halt or jar. It was as if an Invisible Harper had the string of each soul ready to his finger, awaking the finest music at His touch and making it fade again to hushed expectancy. Anything more orderly, more harmonious than that uncondacted meeting I can scarcely conceive.”

## **Mighty, bold witness**

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (4:31)

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. (4:33)

They could not stand up against Stephen's wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke. (6:10)

At once Saul began to preach ... that Jesus is the Son of God... Saul grew more and more powerful. (9:20,22)

## David Morgan (1859)

I went to bed that night as usual—David Morgan. But when I woke up the next morning, I realized I was a different man. I felt like a lion, I felt great power. *[Morgan and others were used by God to bring revival throughout Wales for the next two years.]* One night I went to bed, filled with this power that had accompanied me for two years. I woke up the next morning and found that I was David Morgan once again.

# Revival is marked by...

... an awesome sense of the presence of God and the truth of the gospel; a profound awareness of sin, leading to deep repentance and heartfelt embrace of the glorified, loving, pardoning Christ; an uninhibited witness to the power and glory of Christ, with a mighty freedom of speech expressing a mighty freedom of spirit; joy in the Lord, love for his people, and fear of sinning; and from God's side an intensifying and speeding-up of the work of grace so that men are struck down by the word and transformed by the Spirit in short order. (J. I. Packer)

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



## **Desire for holiness**

The revival was wonderful: I hope that I still live in the joy of it and that it burns for ever in me. It's true that the manifestations were there, even that they shocked us and changed us. But the lasting effect of revival was not to make us seek for more manifestations, but, rather, a deep desire for a holy life. (Dr. Helen Roseveare, looking back on the 1950s Congo revival)

## **Working for God's glory**

You can't live forever on the mountain top. You have to come down into the valley to do the work. You must never look back on the blessing—you must always look on. We contain the treasure of the Lord Jesus. It doesn't matter about the beautiful thin china ware or the cracked old earthen pot —what matters is the treasure within. The key thing is that God and God alone is glorified. (Dr. Roseveare)