

"GIVE US NEW LIFE"

Psalm 85

*Everything costs*

When we think about the price of our society, the price we pay for prosperity, as the material prosperity rushes on. And there was a time that it was a rare occurrence that we read such things in the newspapers as shootings, etc. But today it is very common place.

Now there is nothing wrong with prosperity, as such. Prosperity too often has the same effect upon people as a calm sea has upon a Dutch mariner who frequently it is said, in these circumstances - (ties up the rudder, gets drunk, and goes to sleep) That sleep may well be the sleep of death. Because after each calm there comes the storm. And the conduct of the mariner is a painful reminder of the moral and spiritual condition. We as a people, have tied up the rudder, gotten drunk, and gone to sleep. We are unmindful of all the storm that goes on around us.

Several years ago, back in (1967) in Sacramento, California - there was a story which read like this. It is going to be a (startling) experience for the next wrong way driver who starts to enter a freeway on an (exit) ramp at a test located near here. He will be greeted by a blarring horn, a 12" red light, and a sudden illuminated sign reading ("go back, you are going the wrong way.")

Now this experiment was designed to solve the problem of the wrong way freeway drivers. Who caused (8%) of the fatal freeway accidents. The warnings are activated by a detector buried in the pavement that is sensitive to wrong-way movement.

Now God has such a detector and it is buried in the highway of history. We need to stop, look, and listen to his voice. There is a red light of judgement that is on. And it is saying - go back, you are going wrong.

Psalm 85 - is a petition to God. And it is both vital to the man and to his people. A devout soul through history has been able to read that people were going the wrong way. Having done so, he was constrained to pray. Now you listen to his prayer, and you are convinced that he was voicing the deep hunger as well as the deepest needs of their hearts in his petition.

I am wondering how many of us, as we hear his prayer, today - feel constrained to mingle our voices and frankly say that this is a petition that is needed today. It is not popular but it is what the church needs.

Now there are people who would say, God forbid that we listen to this Psalmist pray. You know what he is praying for - (for a revival.) Here is his petition that he is bringing before God. He spreads it out - will you not come back and give us new life. "Make us glad to be your people again. Will you revive us, he says.

Now there is nothing more evident in the fact that revival has somehow fallen upon evil days. What announcement could the average <sup>PREACHER</sup> people make to his people next Sunday that would create less enthusiasm, less approval, and less holy expectancy - in that he was soon going to begin a revival, in that church.

Now such an announcement would not guarantee the coming together of an eager congregation. It would have the very opposite effect. There are many people in churches where you announce a revival, and it would have about as much drawing power as a notice that a public collection was going to be taking place. And being forwarned, they would be forarmed. And many of the best people would be absent. There would not be a rush to the church - there would be an exodus.

Yet it is not always been so. The word revival used to be a thrilling word. It was a beautiful word. But it is not the case anymore. It has lost it's charm, in our midst. Let us first get a run-down of this Psalm. And then we will center our attention on Verse 6.

First, here is the (favorable past) - V. (1). Lord, you have been very favorable to your own country and to Jacob. You have forgiven him of his sins. And you have blotted away his guilt, V. (2). God's past grace upon his people is taken into consideration.

Second, he talks about the (fierceness of God's judgement coming to an end) - V. (3), 4, and 5. And he pleads that God would take away his judgement, and that God would restore and that he would bring us back as his Saviour. Bring us back to God, he is praying, turn us again. And this is the ground of his claim.

(3) V. (6) - He is praying that God would (furnish revival.) Give us life again. Give us a fresh start. Give us a new life.



V. 7-8 - He talks about the (future security) What God has to say about peace.  
And in V. 9 - salvation. And he says that righteousness and peace have kissed  
each other.

V. 11 - He talks about the (favor of Heaven) coming upon them.

V. 13 - He talks about the (footsteps being established.) Now I hope that we can  
hear what God has to say to his church today.

Wilt thou not revive us again, V. 6. That thy people may rejoice in thee.

Now why is it that people do not have any interest in spiritual revival.

Is it because that idea, that revival has fallen into disrepute. For instance,  
nobody objects to a revival in nature. It is thrilling for the coming Spring. This  
is especially true of those that live in the colder atmospheres. It is delightful  
when we see the first violet appear. How thrilling it is to see the buds when they  
first begin to swell. And when winter has stripped away the leaves and the trees  
begin to come out and put on new garments. And the mocking bird begins to sing.  
And the apple blossoms come. And we see the robins hopping around. And we know  
that Spring is coming.

Now we do not even reject to a revival in our physical bodies. Whenever we  
are desperately ill, and we have a heavy burden - why, it is a joy when health is

returned.

Did you ever witness and rejoice over some loved one who was revived and restored back to health again. How welcome it was. Life was coming back and usefulness.

Now do you know that today probably the most welcome message would be that we are going to have a revival in business. That beginning tomorrow, with certainty, all of your assets will double in value. Tomorrow you will gain back everything that you have lost. Your salaries will begin to increase tomorrow. Now what enthusiasm that would create. Why it would be the talk of the town. And it would be all over this place by nightfall.

But when you begin to talk about a revival in religion, interest kind of wanes. We wonder about that - that is a tiresome ordeal.

Why are many people so indifferent to revival of religion. They may not be a number of reasons why.

First, revival may be unattractive to them today because they see so much that is counterfeit. They distinguish that some of it is not real. Now we confess there have been many so-called revivals that have not really revived. Now, it is not my purpose today to put the blame on anyone for this. Now the whole weight of the responsibility cannot be put on a professional evangelist. Part of it surely belongs

upon them. But there are a type of professional evangelist that may be just a mennace to the church. There are surely other types of the ministry that is enriching. We cannot shift the blame upon his shoulders however. Part of it rests upon us. It rests upon pastors, and it rests upon the congregation. Too often, all of us have undertaken to enter into the spiritual enrichment by some other door. We have demanded the (harvest) without the necessary (planting) and (cultivation) and action. Therefore, we have had many so-called revivals that have brought death rather than life.

Now it is neither fair nor reasonably to discredit reality because sometimes it may be counterfeit. Or, when we think about the revivals that we have in the modern day, or of a certain method that is being used. But when we think about revival, we are thinking about a spiritual awakening. And a revival takes place when the (heart) recovers that joy, and the (soul) recovers its (first love). Now that is the revival in a form that is mightily used to bring in the kingdom of God. And no one can deny that. Now I am unwilling to throw revival away simply because we have some counterfeits. In fact, I am convinced that such experiences are necessary for the highest experience both for the individual and for the church. If you are not going to push aside a diamond that you wear because the jewelry that you see may be much like it - that are counterfeit. And I am not going to throw away a little money that I have in my pocket, because there is such worthless stuff in the world as counterfeit.

So we need to remember that there is no amount of shame that can destroy the real thing.



I think a second reason for wide spread indifference to revival, is the modern church is to a great extent an easy loving church. Such being the case, too often, it is not willing to pay the price for revival.

At times we hate our deadness, our lack of spiritual beauty, but we hate still more to be bothered. Now that may sound a bit contrary but I am confident that the facts are true. There are many doubtless who would like to have a revival provided it could be had without any serious trouble. That is not the case. A revival is costly. It always has been and it always will be.

I remember reading about a preacher telling how a man drove up in a beautiful Cadillac in front of his home. We told him there is the car you ought to have. A Cadillac - <sup>This is your</sup> ~~what~~ class. Now that was really a word fitly spoken. The preacher had never thought of that in that fashion. He told him what an honor it would be to be in his position and driving a Cadillac around the city. His final word was that it cost only some many thousand dollars. And that was just a meager thing with him. Well, that kind of hurt his enthusiasm. He said, I even forgot the warmth that he created when he said that I belonged in a Cadillac class. And he said to him, thank you but I do not need your car. And when he said that, he said, I did not mean to say that this car was undesirable, I did not mean that it would not be a trade with him under any circumstances, had he set the price at 4000 cents instead of 4000 dollars.

Now at this point, I would like to correct the arithmetic of last week. I think I was 2¢ off. But now this preacher said had the price been set at 4000 cents, instead of 4000 dollars and promised to endow the car - then possibly, he said, we could have traded.

But when the price and upkeep were taken into consideration - I had to honestly say, I do not desire your car.

Now such is the case with a revival. Even where we desire one, we do not always desire it genuinely enough to pay the price.

Remember Hosea gives us the same idea of price when we plead for revival.

"Break up your fallow ground, he cries with earnestness. Break up your fallow ground for it is time to seek the Lord. Til he comes and reigns righteousness upon you."

The word takes us out on the farm. It is springtime. And we are getting ready for planting and sowing. But how do you go about it. You do not plant the seed among the weeds and the briars and sprouts that have been growing up during the year and the winter. True, the ground is fallow. It is not new ground that has never been plowed before. It is ground that has been under cultivation. Inspite of that, it needs to be plowed again. The farm only wastes seed who sows them in unprepared soil.

So our heart, that have been broken, must be broken anew. Broken by repentance. Before there can be revival. God is always eager to give, but he cannot give what we refuse to take. He cannot thrust life into our hands if we are full of things and cannot receive it. The revival always begins - not by the gathering in of those without the church. But by a deeper consecration of those within. The church therefore must experience a revival and must repent.

Now by repentance we mean - more than giving up of our positive wrong doing. Of course, that must be done. We need to repent, of our unforgotten vows. Of our



wrong judgements and our open transgression of God's law. We need even more to repent of our failure to adequately represent our Lord. We need to repent of our lack of prayer and of our resulting lack of power. We need to repent of the shameful way we have shunned God's cause and put it in the second, third, and last place instead of first place. We need to repent of our cruel indifference as we have faced the desperate plight of men in need. We need to repent of spiritual barrenness. When Zion travaileth, she bringeth forth children. But just as there are parents that are too selfish to desire children, there are churches that are too foolish and too selfish to desire spiritual children.

There are hundreds of churches who do not report one single addition by profession of faith. Surely this is a proof that the churches need to repent. Not simply to be sorry, but to be so sorry that they will share with their Lord a burden of a world that is going to sin.

Now this is the meaning of the cry that we hear on every hand. The revival is a thing of the past, people say. Some are saying it with joy in their hearts. Some listlessly, and some wishfully. But is this true - why is it true. It is certainly not because human nature has changed. The heart of humanity remains the same. It is not because the divine nature has changed, for Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. It is not because revivals are no longer possible.

Let a preacher<sup>ER</sup> today unite with any group large or small, in any church, in any city or village. And let him say from their hearts - (give me or I die). And what would be the result. Then and there a spiritual awakening will take place. Just as sure as day follows night.

It is easier to talk revival down than to pay the price necessary to possess it. It is easy for us to say that it is of little value, and worth little to us.

Now, we may have the fact that within our church that there is not a desire for revival. That is not proof that we do not need one. It is rather an indication that there is a greater need. Think about Sampson who was sleeping and he went out to meet the enemy that he had triumphed over and over again. He was conscious of no change in himself. Had you told him that his strength had departed, that his inner strength had failed and that God was no longer with him. Doubtlessly, he would have denied it. But the fact that he did not realize his loss, did not in any way cover up that the loss was a reality. The fact that he was unconscious of his danger, did not lessen or destroy the danger. But rather increased it. His lack of any sense of need made his blindness and slavery inevitable.

In the New Testament there was a certain church where we read something like this. It says we have the best pastor in the city, and whereas we have the best choir, and choir leader. And whereas we have the most select congregation. Be it resolved that we are rich and increased in goods and have need of nothing. But the fact that they thought themselves rich, did not make them rich in reality. And Jesus saw them as they really were. He described them as broken-hearted, in spite of their boasted wealth, they were in reality wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

Let me illustrate it that here is a man that attended a baseball game. When he got home, his right limb seemed to be asleep. He walked away with a limp.



He had a sense of a deadness but it did not diminish. The limb had lost its sensitivity. What did he do. Did he call a friend to rejoice with him that he had lost the feeling in that leg. He called the physician. He knew that such a loss denoted death and sickness - and not life. And our present loss of spiritual feeling, of passionate hunger for righteousness is an indication that we need some vigorous spiritual restoration.

Now I am sure that even those who do not believe that we need a revival will agree with this. We are in desperate need of something. No one who is not spiritually blind can be satisfied with present conditions. There is no shutting our eyes to the fact - there is a broad, dreaded decay of idealism, of moral standards, in the whole social order. The atmosphere in which we move as a rule is not spiritually powerful.

So much of this is the case over and over again. That men are staking their lives on these things. The biggest business in the world today is the crime business. And it is as tragic as the Old Testament judge. Who recorded "every man did that which was right in his own eyes." Surely if we do not need a revival, we are in desperate need of something and that can meet our needs.

What is it that we need? <sup>7</sup> Keep in mind that the Psalmist was praying for a revival. He didn't worry about what kind of form it was going to come in. But he was praying for a rediscovery of God. And it was his firm conviction that the need of the hour was a revival or a new life. And the conviction today even in the wide spread indifference, because we believe in God - we are convinced that it is absolutely necessary.



Ezekiel went down to the valley of dry bones. It never occurred to him that he could raise up an exceeding great army by merely organizing the bones. He knew that the breath of God must breathe upon those before those could have any life.

Where there is no vision - the people cast off restraint. The one hope then for the cure of the deadly evil today is to recover your vision of God.

Now legislation is not enough. All the preaching in the world is not going to be enough for you. There was never more ethical preaching than today. You hear it everywhere. But, somehow, we must come to the place where we are going to put something into practice.

You look at the gold at the end of the rainbow. But somehow, as you approach it, that treasure gets away from you. Here is a Psalmist, praying, revive us again that our people may rejoice in thee.

Here is what the revival will do! It will bring a (rebirth of joy). And that's a commodity that the modern church needs. But this joy is something far greater than emotionalism. It is a joy that is the nature out come of the abounding spiritual life. It is a joy that will change your wants. And will bring courage and strength out of your weakness. It means a new passion will come to you. Yes, the church without spot or wrinkle. May God be merciful to us and bless us. And cause his face to shine upon us.

Dr. H. Ford - in a So. City - Blind Beggar sitting on little stool, leaning against Bible - close up put a coin in his cup - sign around neck: "The sun is shining & I am blind" - In a world of Beauty but unable to see, or enjoy it - Blind.

Now that is wonderful - but that is not the end. The final outcome is in this. Some of you Blind Spiritually & in worse condition - No Joy

That his ways may be known throughout the earth. This is a sick world. And here is a remedy. And we believe this, we need to pray with the Psalmist. Revive us again. Give us new life. That we may be a people who rejoice in thee.

There was a well-known incident in the life of Bishop Manning. Who at one time a great depression and doubt as to God's plan for the future life, went to the Book Store to purchase a copy of his own book (Faith In God.) The clerk called to the stockroom in a loud voice, Manning's Faith In God. And the voice came back, loud and clear - all gone.

Now the Bishop recorded that it was a rich lesson for his soul. That there were times in a man's life when he needed to come back and have his faith in God renewed.

Several years ago, a house was robbed in which hung a large picture of Christ. The next morning it was noted, that the thief had turned the picture toward the wall. Now what kind of superstition caused a man to fear a printed picture. But at the same time, disregard the (all seeing eye of God.)

I fear that with the Psalmist, many of you have turned the picture of Christ around and that you are paying no attention to the (all seeing eye of God.)

## MEETING GOD IN PUBLIC WORSHIP

### Psalm 84

#### Definition of worship.

What is the significance of the fact that God is present everywhere?

What is the significance of the fact that there are special places for experiencing communion with God?

What is there about worshipping in a church service that helps one to have the spirit of worship?

What does public worship mean to you? (Source of hope, joy, etc.)

What is likely to happen if we do not worship regularly with the church?

#### I. GOD'S HOUSE 84:1-4

##### 1. Lovely Tabernacle - V. 1

Israel instructed to build place of worship.

##### 2. Yearning Believer - V. 2

Does worship meet a need in men or is it simply to please God?

##### 3. Fortunate Birds - V. 3

How can the place of worship be compared to a sparrow's home or a swallow's nest?

##### 4. Fortunate Priests - V. 4

"Selah" think of that!

#### II. GOD'S STRENGTH

##### 1. Highways To Zion - V. 5

Joy to see roads crowded with people on way to worship.

##### 2. Valley Of Tears - V. 6 (Sorrows turned to joy.)

##### 3. Appearance In Zion - V. 7 (Trip is worthwhile.)

##### 4. Prayer For Strength - V. 8 (Joy is presence of God.)

#### III. GOD'S BLESSING

##### 1. God Gives Protection - V. 9.

##### 2. God Gives Joy - V. 10.

What is the meaning of "a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand?"

What is the significance of a "doorkeeper"?

##### 3. God Gives Blessings - V. 11-12.

#### CONCLUSION

Why can we enhance our worship, improvements, attitudes.

Have you ever felt a deep desire to worship God?

Have you made a commitment to be more faithful in your own public worship of God?