

Revival: Our Only Hope!

In our last quarterly newsletter, Doreen shared on the topic of "What Time Is It?" As a result, it was a perfect lead-in to this issue as I share on the ever growing need for revival within the Body of Christ today.

We are seeing a new president take office whom many feel will solve all of the problems our country faces today (economic, moral, social, family, etc.).

How blinded we are. Man will never be able to solve these challenges or any others without God. He knows we have tried!

It is my personal opinion that God has given us what we deserve, to show us that we need Him and Him alone as the leader of our country and the world that we live in. Man is only an instrument in God's plan. Man's efforts without God lead to judgment and destruction.

We, the Church, have strayed far away from God and need to be revived in order to become what God intended for us to be, the temple of God (I Cor. 3:16).

If revival is the answer, what is it? Vance Havner in his book "Hearts Afire" states that revival is "A work of God's Spirit among His own people -- what we call revival is simply New Testament Christianity, the Saints getting back to normal.

How do we prepare for revival? In Psalm 85:6 we are told how to pray for revival. "Wilt Thou, not revive us again that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?"

Is there a cost to revival? In the April 9, 1965 issue of "Christianity Today" it states that "Revival will always vitalize God's people --- but revival is not always welcome. For many its price is too high. There is no cheap grace in revival --- revival turns careless living into vital concern --- exchanges self-indulgence for self-denial. Yet, revival is not a miraculous visitation falling on an unprepared people like a bolt out of the blue. It comes when God's people earnestly want revival and are willing to pay the price."

Are we willing to pay the price? In Matthew 19 the rich young ruler was not and he turned away sorrowful. Are we too going to keep turning away from God, our only hope, and continue in the ungodly direction we are going? It is past time for the church (valley of dry bones - Ezekiel 37:1-10) to come alive.

How can we the Church be revived? In Acts 2:19 we are told: "Repent therefore and return, that our sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

Let's make the year of 1993 a year of revival within the Church. We can, if you and I get our hearts tight with God and are willing to pay the price of death to self and allow Christ to live in and through us.

REVIVAL IS TRULY OUR ONLY HOPE TO KEEP US FROM FURTHER JUDGMENT AND ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION.