

REVIVAL

Nowadays anywhere we turn we hear about a revival meeting. Well what exactly is a revival. Since this word has been used so often and so repeatedly, many of us really are not aware of the full implications of this word. Revival is a supernatural visitation of the Spirit of God, empowering the Church in all spiritual gifts so that the fire of Pentecost burn again brighter and fiercer. People who do not know the Lord will forcefully enter into the tents of the Holy One.

Well then how does a revival start? Revival usually starts with one or two people earnestly praying for the salvation of the unreached. It usually starts with a burden when people start interceding for people who have strayed away from God. As we go to the Word of God we see, Elijah, the lone prophet angry over his own people who have strayed away from the One true God, to worship everything under every tree. His anger was a fire burning with a passion with a yearning for his country folk to worship Yahweh. The famous one man Vs six hundred challenge was staged on Mt.Carmel, This is of course one of the greatest revivals in Biblical history. A live fire devoured all the abomination and the people at one stroke turned completely over to the living God. A revival is such a powerful event which with one stroke changes people upside down.

Down through the centuries there have been powerful revivals sweeping nations and completely restoring the country. The 18th century was said to be the most tumultuous period in European history. Common man was sick of monarchy and there were bloody revolutions sweeping across guillotining kings and queens. People in England were almost prepared to plunge into a bloody revolution, but history records that because of the revival that was set in motion by the faithfulness of one man named Wesley, the whole country turned away from sin. Revivals are trail blazing occurrences which leaves a lasting effect on all those who are touched by it.

The most wonderful part of it is that you and I can become starters of this great and mighty revival. But how. If we search the word of God, we find the covenant promise of God, If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.II Chronicles 7,15

God has entrusted this great and mighty responsibility into our hearts that when we turn to the Lord, seek His face then He will heal our land. This is God's promise to us. How much do we love our land? How much anguish and pain we have for people who are rushing towards hell. Leonard Ravenhill, starts his book *Why Revival Tarries* with a real life incident. It is customary for a pastor to read a scripture portion about heaven and hell before a prisoner waiting for execution is executed. Once when a criminal was about to be executed, a pastor read about hell. As he was monotonously reading it, this criminal stopped him and asked the pastor if he really believed this is true. When the pastor said, the fellow jumped up and said, "Pastor if this is true, if a place like hell exists, then even if England was fully covered with broken glass I will go around it on my knees and will tell them about such a horrifying place."

How can we be so quiet when so many people around us are marching towards eternal damnation. Is it enough that your family alone, inherits eternal life. Do not we have a responsibility and accountability towards our fellow country men. In this land of so many idolatrous ways, the Lord has chosen you and me to know about this inheritance. Will not men curse the one who hoards food. God has given us eternal life, the living bread. Can we hoard it for ourselves? Will not our friends accuse us on the day of the Lord.