Will You Not Revive Us Again?
Psalm 85:1-6 (NKJV)

Please turn with me in your Bibles to our scripture text this morning in PSALM 85. And let's read verses 1-6.

Psalm 85:1-6 (NKJV)

1 LORD, You have been favorable to Your land;
   You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people;
   You have covered all their sin. Selah

3 You have taken away all Your wrath;
   You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.

4 Restore us, O God of our salvation,
   And cause Your anger toward us to cease.

5 Will You be angry with us forever?
   Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

6 Will You not revive us again,
   That Your people may rejoice in You?

PRAYER
Well we have come to that time of the year when many of our Churches of Christ here in eastern North Carolina have their annual fall Revival. In fact, many preachers commonly refer to this as “the holy season.”

Revivals were a very special time when I was growing up as a boy back in Indiana. Most of our revivals were two-week long meetings. And we always had dynamic Revival preachers like George Stansberry, and Raldo Cook, and Ken Idleman. (Kyle Idleman's father) And we also had great song evangelists like the Good Twins or Lowell Mason come to lead the worship.

And we always had “special nights” like “Bring A Friend Night” or “Old Fashion night” where everybody would dress up in “old fashion” clothes, or we would have “God and Country Night” where fifty people in the Church would represent each of the fifty states and we would take a roll call of the delegates to see who had brought the most guests with them.

Our revivals were always two weeks long. Can you imagine trying to get a crowd to come out for two straight weeks of revival in this day and time? One revival I remember in particular was when I was about twelve years old, so this would have been about 1967. Raldo Cook out of Pennsylvania was our evangelist. We had 58 additions during that Revival and almost all of them were baptisms.
Sadly, in my lifetime, I have seen Revivals go from two weeks to one week to three night revivals and many Churches today no longer even have a Revival.

And even in the Churches that still have Revivals, I wonder how much “reviving” really takes place.

What Is A Revival?

The word “REVIVAL” itself means “to live again” or “to receive life again.”

Revival means to “rekindle a fire that has almost extinguished.”

You can't REVIVE something that is DEAD. You can’t REVIVE something that never had LIFE. Those who are lost in sin cannot experience REVIVAL because they have never come to life spiritually. Only those who were once spiritually alive, those who were once vibrant and zealous, those who were once “on fire” for the LORD can experience REVIVAL.

REVIVAL is important to GOD and it ought to be important to GOD'S PEOPLE! And I submit to you this morning that if ever there was a time when GOD'S PEOPLE need a true revival, it is now!

The Psalmist prays in VERSE 6, “Will You not REVIVE US AGAIN, that
Your people may rejoice in You?"

Brothers and sisters if all of us would pray that prayer and mean it, it would do more good than any sermon I could ever preach on this subject. And my goal in preaching this message is to get all of us to pray this simple prayer.

Notice the shortness and simplicity of this prayer. The ancients didn't pray long, drawn-out, wordy prayers. Their prayers were simple and to the point!

LORD, WE NEED A REVIVAL.......WILL YOU NOT REVIVE US AGAIN!

As the time of our Revival is upon us, let's focus on what this prayer means to us.

First of all I would have you to consider.........

I. What Is The Proper Time For A Prayer Such As This?

1. We find our answer right here in this Psalm. The proper time to pray for Revival is WHEN WE CAN ONLY REMEMBER GOD’S GREAT WORKS IN OUR PAST.

Verses 1-3 1 LORD, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.
2 You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people;
   You have covered all their sin. Selah

3 You have taken away all Your wrath;
   You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.

2. You notice everything the Psalmist mentions takes him back to a
   more glorious time in Israel's past. He reflects back on a time when
   God's power was evident in their lives, a time when God was moving
   in their lives.

   And realizing he can no longer see evidence of God at work in their
   lives, he prays: “Will You not revive us again?”

3. Was there ever a time when you saw the mighty hand of God at work
   in your life more than You do now? Are “the greatest days” of your
   Christian life behind you? Was there ever a time when you were more
   spiritually alive than you are now? Was there ever a time when you
   were closer to God than you are right now? If so, now is the
   proper time to pray this prayer: “WILL YOU NOT
   REVIVE ME
   AGAIN? “LORD, SEND A REVIVAL AND LET IT BEGIN
   IN ME!”

4. Was there ever a time when you saw the mighty hand of God at work
   in this Church more than you do now? Remember the days when
   these pews were full! Remember the days when souls were being
   saved and new members were being added to this Church.
   Remember the days when the spirit in this Church was alive and
   vibrant and you could sense “the breath of life” the minute you
walked in the doors. You see, now is the proper time to pray this prayer: “WILL YOU NOT REVIVE US AGAIN?”

5. When our worship lacks zeal and passion.
   When our attendance is dropping.
   When our commitment is lagging.
   When our spirits are apathetic and complacent.
   When our Sunday School classes are dying.
   When our efforts seem to be fruitless.
   When our hearts are backsliding.

   It is time to pray this prayer: “WILL YOU NOT REVIVE US AGAIN!”

Secondly let's consider..........

II. Who Needs To Pray This Prayer?

1. Well first of all, YOUR MINISTER NEEDS TO PRAY THIS PRAYER!

   In the gospels we read accounts of times when JESUS became so physically and emotionally exhausted while ministering to others that He would withdraw to private places
to pray. Those were times of **REVIVAL** for Jesus.

If JESUS needed REVIVAL, then how much more do I, and all who minister to others need revival? Contrary to what some might think, we preachers have “bad days” just like everyone else. We grow weary, we get discouraged, we get “burned out.”

This is why I need to pray this prayer often: **“WILL YOU NOT REVIVE ME AGAIN, O LORD?”**

2. Not only do ministers need to pray this prayer, **THE CHURCH LEADERS NEED TO PRAY THIS PRAYER!**

Being a leader in the Lord's Church is a very noble, and yet very demanding responsibility. When you serve as a leader in the Lord's Church you see “the under belly” of the Church that no one else sees. And when one is a leader in the Church it is very easy to get discouraged and have your spirits dampened.

That's why you men who serve as leaders in this Church need to pray this prayer: **“WILL YOU NOT REVIVE US AGAIN?”**

3. Who else needs to pray this prayer? **EVERY MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH NEEDS TO PRAY THIS PRAYER.**

The scriptures teach us that the Church is like a body. It has
many members, and every member is vitally important to the spiritual health of the body.

If one part of your physical body is weak or sickly or in pain, it has an affect on your whole body. The same is true in the “spiritual body,” the Church.

Do you know if you are “spiritually sick” it has an effect on the spiritual health of the whole Church? If your heart has grown cold and indifferent spiritually, the rest of the Church suffers. If you have become worldly or apathetic, the rest of Church suffers.

That is why EVERY MEMBER of Christian Hope Church needs to pray this prayer: “WILL YOU NOT REVIVE US AGAIN, O LORD?”

Well we have considered WHEN IS THE PROPER TIME TO PRAY THIS PRAYER and WHO NEEDS TO PRAY THIS PRAYER.

Finally, let's consider.........
III. What Is The Essence of This Prayer?

1. The essence of this prayer is to teach us: **TRUE REVIVAL IS DEPENDENT UPON GOD.**

   "Will **YOU** not revive us again!

2. Only God can **REVIVE** us! Only God can **BREATHE LIFE** back into us spiritually.

   **ILLUSTRATION** Let's say you drag the seemingly lifeless body of someone out of a swimming pool. They aren't breathing. They aren't moving.

   You quickly sweep his or her mouth to remove any foreign objects..........you tilt their head backwards..........and you begin to breathe into his or her mouth every few seconds while holding his nose shut.

   Soon they start choking and vomiting water......they take a deep breath and open their eyes. They have been **REVIVED!** They didn't **REVIVE** themselves did they? NO! They were dependent upon someone else to **REVIVE** them.

3. Just like a "drowning victim" is totally dependent upon someone else to breathe life back into them, **SO TOO ARE WE DEPENDENT**
UPON GOD TO REVIVE US WHEN WE ARE SPIRITUALLY DROWNING!

4. Brothers and sisters, the LORD wants you to know this morning, that you are never so deep in "the pit" of lukewarmness or backsliding that He can't help you out! You are never so "dead spiritually" that the LORD can't make you alive again!

One touch of GOD'S HAND.......ONE BREATH from God's Spirit.........is all it takes to REVIVE you!

CONCLUSION

My love is cold, my faith is small.
My zeal is lacking, my doubts apall.
My footsteps falter, and I often stray.
As the devil marks me, for his prey.
GOD OF HEAVEN, HEAR MY PLEA
SEND A REVIVAL, LET IT START IN ME!