

SUNDAY 22.09.2024

ACTS 1:1-8 NIV

THE PURPOSE OF REVIVAL

▶ King Solomon thought, probably by building the Temple and dedicating it to God would bring revival, instead God asked him to do four things (humility, prayer, Seek God's face and Repentance).

▶ “if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles. 7:14).

- ▶ Many times, when we hear about revival, we think of big names like, Wesley, Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards', Billy Graham etc., yes these were great speakers, but I believe God has been reviving us individually as well.

- ▶ The purpose of revival is to restore the presence of God and to bring us back into relationship with the Father.
- ▶ Revival awakens our hearts for action.

▶ Acts 1 shows, Jesus spent forty days after His resurrection appearing to His apostles. Before His ascension, He promised them the gift of the Holy Spirit and commanded them to witness His teachings from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

▶ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)

▶ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. (1:4).

1. Revival brings Transformation.

“For John baptized with water,
but in a few days, you will be
baptized with the Holy Spirit.”
(1:5).

a) Acts 1 lays the groundwork for the birth and expansion of the early Church. From the ascension of Jesus to the promise of the Holy Spirit, it emphasizes the transformation of the apostles from mere followers to leaders.

2. Revival ignites a new passion for God.

- a)** Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “... 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. (Acts 2:14-15).

b) “I'm going fishing.” And they all replied, “We'll go with you.” So, they went out and fished through the night but caught nothing. Then at dawn, Jesus was standing there on the shore, but the disciples didn't realize that it was him! (John 21:1-3).

c) The messages to the seven churches in Revelation 2, serve as a timeless mirror for us to examine our spiritual condition, they show how we can easily lose our momentum and spiritual passion.

3. Revival empowers believers for God's mission.

a) If we are not fulfilling God's mission, we are as good as a dead church.

The Church of Sardis were Christians but denied God's power in their lives (2 Timothy 3:5).

▶ Jesus had an issue with the Church of Sardis. He called them a dead church. He told them to “Wake up.” They needed a revival to bring them back to life and to serve God with the right motives. (Revelation 3)

b) What is God's mission? Jesus said "To proclaim good news to the poor. ... to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4: 17-19).

c) As Christians God has given us an opportunity to be the hope, to bring healing, to reach out to the brokenhearted, and to share the good news (Matthew 28) to our community.

d) Peter, a man full of the Spirit and given to prayer (Acts 6:4; 9:40), was used by God to raise the dead woman Dorcas to life. And this miracle led many people in that town of Joppa to faith in Christ (Acts 9:36-42).

e) Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. (Acts 2)