



Network for Revival Prepare 29 July 2021

Prayer for Revival -Yearning for God

Some time ago I was quite challenged as I read the Psalmists' words about deeply yearning for God. I had to ask myself if I really yearned for him at such a depth and I concluded I didn't at that time. Yet the Psalmists concerned (David and the sons of Korah) lived some 3000 years ago and had no knowledge of the New Testament. How is it that they were expressing a depth of yearning for God which challenged me? Listen to them:

"You, O God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water" (Psalm 63:1). "One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple" (Psa 27:4).

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for you, the living God. When can I go and meet with you? (Psa 42:1-2) You are my joy and my delight (Psa 43:4). I long to ... take refuge in the shelter of your wings (Psa 61:4). My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. (Psa 84:2).

The Lord says through Jeremiah "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" (Jer 29:13).

I have written before that Revival is God. Revival is very important. But the priority is yearning for and seeking God – the One who comes in Revival. I have found that the longer I have continued to pray in-depth for Revival, the more the Lord has caused my priority in prayer to be focusing on him in worship, adoration, yearning for him and listening to what he is saying. I read somewhere that such prayer for Revival brings about a focus on the three Persons of the Trinity and I can witness to that.

It is not only listening to God, praying for him to speak, but meditating on his presence. It is being with him, sharing "the silence of eternity – interpreted by love." It is hearing "the still small voice of calm." Andrew Murray wrote: "We may have a strong desire for spiritual blessings. But alongside them are other desires occupying a large place in our interests. The spiritual desires are not all-absorbing. We are puzzled that our prayer is not heard. It is because God wants the whole heart. If there are desires which occupy more of our heart than He Himself, the desires that we are praying for cannot be granted."

God is so ready to speak to us – if we are listening. I have been quite overwhelmed by how much he has said to me in recent years, since I began to focus on praying for Revival. God says through Jeremiah "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" (Jer 33:3). We cannot outgive God – seeking him, worshipping him, listening to him leads to great blessing. Of course, this blessing includes conviction of sin and challenge to correct failings, as I have found. I have come to regard this as a personal Revival. Isaiah says "the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion" (Isa 30:18). He also says "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite" (Isa 57:15).

I urge you, brothers and sisters, to continue to pray extensively and in-depth for Revival. This will not only further God's purposes for the church and society but it will lead to great personal blessing, in terms of worship, holiness, growth in faith, etc. Let the Lord lead you into the top priority - focusing on him in worship, adoration, yearning for him and listening to what he is saying.

God bless you,

Tony

PLEASE ENSURE you have put my name and email address in your contacts file, to prevent my messages going into Spam. Also, please inform me if you change your address.

RELEVANT QUOTATIONS

“Revival is a going of God among his people, and awareness of God laying hold of the community” (*Duncan Campbell*).

“Revival is when God manifests His presence in overwhelming reality. It leaves you with a profound realisation of God’s greatness and transcendence and of your own unworthiness and dependence on Him.” (*Revival Fire by Wesley Deuwel*).

“Revival does not begin in theology, but in theophany. It begins in a revelation of Jesus Christ Himself and a sense of nearness of the Master.” (*Revival, a people saturated with God by Brian H. Edwards*).

APPENDIX: OTHER ARTICLES I HAVE WRITTEN

As promised, I attach a list of some other articles I have written, which you may find helpful. Feel free to circulate them to others. Further details and hyperlinks to the articles are in the attached file.

My most recent article: Update on Israel after the May 2021 war

See <https://christianteaching.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/00-Paradox-52.pdf>

APOLOGETICS (Defence of the Faith)

“The question of miracles and the problem of suffering”

“Does God exist? arguments from causality, design morality”

“Dawkins on Sky”

BIBLE

“Does God have feelings?”

“God of beauty”

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT (building a Biblical church in the power of the Spirit)

“Doing the word”

CHURCH ISSUES

“Is the Church of England in terminal decline?”

“How do modern evangelicals differ from other Christians?”

ESCHATOLOGY (the End Times)

“Jesus’ teaching on the signs of his coming”

“Jesus’ teaching about the future: some scholarly opinions”

INTERFAITH (issues to do with other faiths)

“Interfaith compromise”

PASTORAL

“Pastoral care course”

“The purpose of suffering as a Christian”

In Network for Revival God has called us to “make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” This includes:

- Encouraging people to seek holiness and true biblical discipleship.
- Encouraging people to major on prayer for Revival.
- Encouraging churches to be radically biblical in the power of the Spirit (see [Church Development](#) for information and resources).
- Encouraging people to “Watch!” for the return of Jesus (Mk 13:32-37 – see [Eschatology](#)).