



Network for Revival Prepare Issue 34 - January 2022

We continue our series on seeking holiness, which is crucial to praying and preparing for revival. Firstly, we looked at the motive of God's holiness, which should inspire godly fear. Then we looked at the motive of the majestic glory of God which should be manifested amongst us. Last time, in our Advent issue, we looked at the motive of the judgment of God, which we all face. This time we look at the need to go on being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Seeking holiness: go on being filled with the HOLY Spirit

Christianity is supernatural. Seeking holiness is not just using our self-control. It is allowing the Holy Spirit to control us. It means persisting in prayer that he will do so. The disciples experienced the fulness of the Spirit at Pentecost. They were transformed into courageous witnesses, powerful preachers, effective evangelists, performers of signs and wonders. They became devoted "to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42). They enjoyed a deep unity in fellowship (Acts 2:44). Christianity was intended to be like this. It is easy to say "Oh, that was Pentecost – it was unique." But there is a huge amount of evidence that God inspires very similar blessings for those who seek to be filled with the Spirit. I have seen this extensively myself.

Paul's command in Eph 5:18 is a continuous imperative in the Greek, literally "Go on being filled with the Spirit" It is not just a "second blessing" but a 3rd, 4th, 5th 6th blessing etc., an on-going blessing. Let's not allow controversy about "second blessings" or "speaking in tongues" to deflect us from the divine command to go on being filled with the Spirit."

It is interesting that Paul contrasted being filled with the Spirit with getting drunk on wine i.e. someone seriously controlled by the wine and not self-controlled. The disciples were accused of having "had too much wine" at Pentecost (Acts 2:23). We are, of course, called to self-control in one sense, but that self-control is to be exercised under the inspiration and loving control of the Holy Spirit.

Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? Many people have had a special experience of the Holy Spirit some time ago. (I did many years ago!).

If you haven't had such an experience of the Holy Spirit, ask the Lord to grant you one. You may need to persevere in prayer for some time. You might find it helpful to ask someone to pray with you. I urge you to be open to the gifts of the Spirit – healing, prophecy, etc. Some people believe the NT teaching on the gifts was only for the apostolic era. I don't think it is possible to substantiate that from the NT.

However, I want to add one very important, and sometimes neglected, point. We are called to go on being filled with the HOLY Spirit (Acts 2:4; 9:17). He is "the Spirit of holiness" (Rom 1:4). Yes, being filled with the Spirit is meant to cause us to experience spiritual power (the Greek for 'power' is *dunamis* from which we get our word "dynamite"!). Yes, it is meant to enhance worship greatly. Yes, it is meant to release the gifts of the Spirit in us. But it is also meant to inspire and empower holiness. Hence the fruit of the Spirit "love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Gal 5:22-23).

I believe that part of our preparation for Revival, alongside prayer, is personal revival. This will include growth in holiness and experience of God's power. Like Pentecost it will inspire us in much deeper devotion to God's Word, to prayer and to united fellowship.

So let's pray persistently and in depth for local Revival, national Revival and world Revival. But let's also pray for personal Revival – and not give up until we experience it!

A description of Revival by Duncan Campbell

Duncan was greatly used by God in what he called “the to the spiritual awakening that swept Lewis-and-Harris, one of the Outer Hebrides Islands off the northwest coast of Scotland, during 1940-1953.”

“Whole communities were mightily moved as “God came,” and the following instance is typical of the scenes witnessed in the churches and in the homes of the people throughout the island: “... a crowded church, the service is over, the congregation reluctant to disperse stands outside the church in a silence that is tense, Suddenly, a cry is heard within; a young man, burdened for the souls of his fellow men, is pouring out his soul in intercession. He prays until he falls ... prostrate on the floor of the church. But Heaven has heard and the congregation, moved by the power of God, comes back into the church, and a wave of conviction sweeps over the gathering, moving strong men to cry for mercy. This service continued until the small hours of the morning, but so great was the distress and so deep the hunger which gripped men and women that they refused to go home though others were already assembling in another part of the parish; and a number of those who now made their way to the church were moved by a power they had not before experienced. Others were deeply convicted of sin and crying for mercy in their own homes before coming near the church. None who were present at this early morning visitation will forget the moving scenes.”

Duncan Campbell, “The Price and Power of Revival” -Introduction (NB this introduction is not in some versions of the book)

This is what we need – a powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit causing people to experience in-depth repentance followed by the wonderful joy of forgiveness.

Let’s continue to pray.

God bless you in this new year.

Tony

APPENDIX: OTHER ARTICLES I HAVE WRITTEN

You may find these articles helpful. Feel free to circulate them to others. Further details and hyperlinks to the articles are in the attached file. You can also find the articles, and many others at <https://christianteaching.org.uk>

APOLOGETICS

“Does God regularly intervene in the world?”

“Born of a virgin?”

DEVOTIONAL

“Listen to both sides” (*Bringing reconciliation*)

“Love – a meditation”

“False views of God”

“How can we know if we love God?”

“Innocent until proved guilty” (*avoiding judgmentalism*)

“Jesus wants you for a sunbeam!” (*How to be a light in darkness*)

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](#)).