



*Network for Revival Prepare Issue 39 – August 2022*

## **Corporate preparation for revival**

*(Relevant to church leaders, the retired and churchmembers)*

History shows that, whereas some Revivals last a long time, other revivals can fade away fairly quickly or even go off the rails. We have thought a lot about preparing for Revival in prayer and holiness. But we also need to be prepared for when revival actually comes. Also, quite apart from revival, the church and Christian discipleship should be what Jesus and the NT said it should be. We shouldn't just be waiting for revival.

Sadly, some churches are just seeking to meet people's needs and to please them. They are "doing church" rather than challenging people to radical discipleship, as Jesus did: to put him way before loved ones (he uses the disturbing metaphor of "hating" family) and to sacrifice one's own life "to give up everything you have," otherwise we cannot be his disciples (Lk 14:26-33). Revival is meant to lead to and facilitate radically biblical discipleship. We need prayerful wisdom and sensitivity to encourage people to become radically biblical, but Jesus calls us to do it. It also requires a supportive fellowship.

So we will include a series on being radically biblical in the power of the Spirit, alongside other subjects in Prepare. They will be based on what God taught us in the main church of which I was the Minister, when we asked him to make us radically biblical in the power of the Spirit and he blessed us so wonderfully over many years.

It begins with us – you and me. We need to be radically biblical in the power of the Spirit. It will only happen through prayer, including corporate prayer, but that is encouraging - it makes it feasible.

If you are not a church leader or are retired, it can still happen in a home group. Home groups functioning as area churches are part of the strategy we recommend.

There is, of course, a related subject. Many people who come to Christ through Revival in today's society will be uninformed about basic Christianity. We are in the process of producing basic teaching material for such folk and will inform you about it as soon as we can.

How do we start moving towards being radically biblical in the power of the Spirit? I think we first need to return prayerfully to the first and greatest commandment. I have found this really challenging.

## **Do we love God with all our hearts?**

**Do we love God with all our hearts?** It is clear that Jesus calls us to have a heartfelt love for God. When asked which was the greatest commandment, he replied "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Mt 22:37). Barnabas visited the church in Antioch "and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts" (Acts 11:23). The question is, do we love God with all our hearts? Do we lift up our hearts in adoration and commitment? Do we tell God we love him – from our hearts?

**Do we long to be with God?** The Psalmist writes "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" (Psa 42:1-2). "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). Do we really desire to be in God's presence – just to be in his presence, not just to say prayers? Do we really look forward to it? Do we delight in God?

**Do we experience heartfelt adoration for God?** Paul writes "Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, (Eph 5:18-19). God desires heartfelt worship – not just a singalong of favourite hymns or songs. Only some hymns are adoration - addressing God himself and telling him we love and adore him. God can enable us to be "lost in wonder, love and praise" regularly. Do we express deep emotion in worship?

**Do we really long to please God?** “What does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul” (Dt 10:12). Do we long for the church to please God – or only to please us?

**Do we pour out our hearts in prayer?** The Psalmist says “Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge” (Psa 62:8). Jude urges the believers to be “praying in the Holy Spirit” (Jude 20). Also Jesus “offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission” (Heb 5:7). I think Jesus must also have prayed like this other than when facing the cross. Are we passionate in prayer? Do we seek what God wants us to pray about – what is on his heart - and then pray it into being, earnestly, whatever the delay?

**Do we experience heartfelt sorrow for our sins?** “‘Even now,’ declares the Lord, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.’ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love” (Joel 2:12-13). Do we really see our sins as offending and grieving God, showing contempt for the blood of Jesus? Do we grieve over that ourselves?

**Do we really long to hear from God?** We do long to hear from human loved ones. “Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the Lord your God” (1 Chron 22:19). Jeremiah writes “When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight” (Jer 15:16). Are we longing to hear from God through Scripture and through significant thoughts he may put in our minds?

So, in preparation for aiming for our church or fellowship to be radically biblical in the power of the Spirit, I recommend asking the following questions:

1. Do I love God with all my heart?
2. Do I long to be with God?
3. Do I experience heartfelt adoration for God?
4. Do I really long to please God?
5. Do I pour out my heart in prayer?
6. Do I experience heartfelt sorrow for my sins?
7. Do I really long to hear from God?

Learning to love God with all our hearts requires in-depth prayer for a new anointing with the Holy Spirit - a mini-revival which will prepare our church/ fellowship for following up a major revival. And, of course, it makes us personally more ready for revival itself and strengthens our prayers for it

## **Description of the Hebrides Revival (1949-52)**

(*In Berneray*) “The Spirit of God was working in an unusually powerful manner. In some of those meetings, if you wanted to say anything about the Lord, you would have to sit down, or you would fall. If you started to sing, you would have to sit, or you would fall. The singing was so powerful!”

(*In Kinloch*) “People have been in such distress that they have cried out for mercy in the services.”

(*In Baile-na-Cille*) “Men have been found walking the roads at night in distress of soul; others have been found during the day praying among the rocks’ (Nov 1951). And again, ‘as the Spirit of God swept through the meeting, the cry of the unsaved could be heard, as strong men wept their way to the Saviour’ (Dec 1951).

Do it again, Lord

God bless you,

Tony

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](#)).