



Network for Revival Prepare Issue 55 – September 2025

The prospect of life after death – a strong motive for prayer for Revival

The prospects of heaven and hell are a very powerful motive for our prayer and preparation for Revival. It is good to meditate on that.

What is heaven like?

Heaven is:

- A place of the revelation of the overwhelming, majestic, awe-inspiring presence of God,
- A place where God is revealed as surrounded by glorious heavenly beings
- A place of delighting in the infinite love of God,
- A place where Jesus is given pre-eminence,
- A place where the wounds of Jesus are still visible, as a reminder of the cross,
- A place of eternal joy and fellowship with God, angels, loved ones and other believers,
- A place of hearing God's overpowering voice and speaking to him,
- A place of peace, love, community, and worship,
- A place of perfect beauty and glory, joy and peace,
- A beautiful "garden" with plentiful water, fruit and plants of every kind for food,
- A place of perfect joy, peace, and beauty,
- A place of rewards for the faithful,
- A place where bodies have been transformed and glorified
- A place where bodies are imperishable, glorious, powerful and spiritual (fully open to the Holy Spirit),
- A place without sorrow, pain, mourning, crying or death,
- A place of vitality and creativity, with challenges to overcome and achievements to reach,
- A place of various acts of service and ministry,
- A place "having many rooms" - a place of variety and individual spaces,
- A place of sanctified art, culture and creativity.

What a wonderful incentive to evangelise and pray for Revival this is. We should long for many unbelievers, including those close to us to turn to Jesus and eventually to experience all this. *(This description is based upon biblical and theological teaching)*

What is Hell like?

I'm not going to dwell on the awful nature of Hell. Hell is a place dominated by impenetrable darkness. It is "burning" with utter loneliness, complete desolation, total wretchedness and a sense of guilt. It is the absence of the presence of God.

However, we do need to dwell on the fact that many people have chosen to go to an eternity without God – a lost eternity. That should be dominant in our thinking. God invites us to choose to love him and trust him through Jesus – the way to Heaven. Or we can ignore him, which is the way to Hell. **The need to rescue people from the way to Hell should feature in our thinking, ministry and evangelism.**

Jesus speaks more about Hell than anyone else in the NT. He uses quite graphic language (Matt 5:22, 5:29-30 cf. 18:9; 10:28; 13:40-42; 23:33; 25:41-46; Luke 16:23-28). Yes, he uses symbolism but it is clear that he is referring to literal truth. And he clearly doesn't believe in annihilation at death or that everybody goes to heaven in the end.

- He refers to “the fire of Hell” (Mt 5:22; 18:9).
- He refers to God as “the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Mt 10:28).
- He says “there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” in Hell (Mt 13:42).
- He predicts he will say to unbelievers on the day of judgment ““Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels ‘Then they will go away to eternal punishment” (Mat 25:41, 46).

Strong motivation to pray and prepare for Revival

Obviously, the prospect of heaven is a wonderful, joyful one. But the fact of hell is a profound motive for reaching out to those who are not yet believers. It ought to motivate us to a heart commitment to evangelism and prayer for Revival.

However, there seems to be a lack of concern about this in some individual Christians and churches. How can churches carry on without making serious efforts to reach out with the message of the gospel to unbelievers, who are on their way to a lost eternity? Where is the love in that? Lack of evangelism is a spiritual deceit and certainly a lack of love.

Let us renew our commitment to evangelism and for prayer and preparation for Revival. We surely want as many of our neighbours and contacts as possible to go with us to heaven.

The Quiet Revival

Inevitably, after the reports of the “Quiet Revival,” there are people raising questions as to whether it is a genuine Revival. After all, it isn’t quite the same as the Hebrides Revival, for example. However, it is clear that a remarkable spiritual movement is happening. I reported a good deal of convincing evidence in the last edition of Prepare (which is on the website [Prepare-54-May-2025.pdf](#)).

I think we need to recognise that God is clearly at work, however different it may be from historical Revivals at present. Yes, as I said last time, we need to pray for much more to happen:

- For many more people of all age groups to come to faith
- For a national and worldwide movement of the Holy Spirit.
- For a deep experience of the awesome holiness of God leading to personal holiness.
- For passionate persevering prayer and fasting
- For a regular experience of being “lost in wonder, love and praise” in worship.
- For a church which is radically biblical in the power of the Spirit and effective in ministry and outreach.
- For a church which will share in God’s grief over the dishonouring of his name, his grief over the failing church, his grief for the lost.

But, I believe we must not underestimate the current move of God in the “Quiet Revival.” Let us thank God for the very encouraging things that are happening. It is a special work of the Spirit and I believe warrants the description Revival.

MORE EVIDENCE

In 2024 two million people around the world joined in the Alpha Course, the highest number ever. 250,000 young people in 53 countries participated in the new Alpha Youth Series. This is significant, in the light of the prominence of younger people in the Quiet Revival, as is the fact that a third of Alpha participants last year were under 25.

The Evangelical Alliance 2024 survey “Finding Jesus” discovered that the majority of UK adults coming to faith did so because of an “experience with God.” The next factor was reading the Bible which was formative in shaping their beliefs. Rachael Heffer, Head of Mission at the Evangelical Alliance has said: “For a number of our participants, life kind of felt and looked okay. They had the family, the job and so on – and yet, what comes out is that actually they had this spiritual stirring, or a sense that something was missing.” When asked what prompted them to explore Christianity, the top response was “I needed help with life” (37 per cent), followed by “I was looking for meaning” (34 per cent) and “difficult/painful experience” (32 per cent).

Phil Knox, a senior specialist in evangelism and missiology at the Evangelical Alliance said recently “I have repeatedly heard pastors, ministers and vicars tell me about the men that have been showing up and choosing to be disciples of Jesus. A leader of a church in south London told me that they had seen a surge unlike anything they had seen before of men in their 20s and 30s walking through the door on a Sunday morning. What was striking was that they were not there to explore faith – they had ‘done that already’. They shared that they have been researching faith, reading the Bible, watching online sermons and Christian videos. They had arrived ‘ready to become Christians.’

The Evangelical Alliance “Changing Church 2025” report has found an average increase in church attendance of 13% since January 2020. Twice as many people are approaching churches with questions about the Christian faith, and twice as many people making first-time commitments to follow Jesus compared to 2021.

The report concluded: “The overall picture for evangelical churches in the UK is of growth and opportunities. Churches are seeing more people commit to follow Jesus and more openness to exploring the Christian faith.” However, it noted that church growth is “a very mixed picture” – the “largest half of churches are growing, and with more growth among children than adults,” whilst smaller churches have been decreasing in size.

Lynne Paterson, head of the Evangelical Alliance in Scotland, said: “There are definitely green shoots of revival. It’s like there’s a wineskin, but the wine has not yet been poured out.”

Let’s take encouragement from all this and redouble our commitment to in-depth prayer for Revival.

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](#)).