

Review – ingredients of personal and corporate revival

Revival is the “*extraordinary movement of the Spirit of God in the hearts of God’s people, producing extraordinary transformation*” [and we looked at the characteristics of revival] --- experiencing God to the fullest

Revival is not . . .

- hearing someone talk about revival
- agreeing that revival is important
- just evangelism. A church could hold a week of evangelistic meetings and see many people come to Christ in salvation, but that’s not revival.
- just emotionalism. A church might have stirring meetings and great preaching and many decisions made and tears shed, but that doesn’t mean revival occurred.
- nor is revival simply an event.

#1 – **humility** is a proper view of myself that leads me to admit my sin and acknowledge my need

#2 – **honesty**

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Gregory House quote (“Everybody lies.”) Isn’t it true that everybody lies?

Sometimes we lie and tell a:

- big, carefully fabricated lies;
- little, “white” lies;
- deceit (I didn’t lie, I just led you astray = you’re to blame);
- by our silence, to hide the truth;
- by our actions, i.e., things done to give a better impression than is really true.

ILLUSTRATION: Court – called to the witness stand...

Lies are common:

- at work—on our expense account, giving a better impression than is true to our supervisor, etc.
- at home—not being honest with our spouse, our parents, our children.
- at recreation—lying about our abilities (or lack thereof!).
- at school—to our teachers, friends, classmates.

The greatest deception has nothing to do with whether or not I am truthful to you or you to me, the greatest deception is when I am not honest with God. We often seek to cover our sin so that we feel like we're in better condition spiritually than we really are (or we rationalize our sin).

If we are to experience God in the fullest (revival), we must begin with getting honest before God about ourselves, our sin, and our need.

Since honesty with God is so important (which it is) what does it look like and how can we grow so that we might experience revival?

A. Honesty with God begins with confession

> confess means “**to say the same as**” (examples: in general, “repeat after me”; specifically – “God, I agree with you that ___ is sin.”)

B. an example of honesty with God (Psalm 32)

1. results of deceit / dishonesty (v. 4, 10a)

> physical, emotional, spiritual debilitation

> many woes (v. 10a)

2. results of honesty with God (vv. 1-3, 11)

To be blessed means to sense the joy, or happiness, that comes from knowing that we stand approved before God, through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

- forgiveness (literally, “*take away, clear away, carry away*”);
- sins are covered (“to completely conceal”)
- sins not charged – accounting term
- in whom there is not deceit
- removed conviction (vv. 3-5)
 - physical – “wasted away”
 - emotional – “groaned”
 - spiritual – “hand was heavy”
- intimate counsel
- restored fellowship
- praise and joy

C. practicing honesty with God

1. **fully** acknowledge sin (Ps. 32:5; 51:4; James 5:16)

Psalm 32:5, 'Then I acknowledged my sin to you and (I) did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD" — and you forgave the guilt of my sin.'

Psalm 51:4, "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge."

Notice pronouns...there is only one remedy to deceit and dishonesty: fully acknowledge our sin to God.

> The transaction of honesty: I CONFESS = GOD FORGIVES

2. **cultivate intimacy** with God through His Word (Ps. 119:9, 11; Matt. 4:1-11)
3. establish (and keep) **proper boundaries** (Ps. 1; Rom. 13:14; James 4:4)
4. use resources (1 John 1:9; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; Eph. 6:10-18);
5. practice **reconciliation** (Matt. 5:23-24; 18:15-35; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Gal. 6:1; Luke 22:32; Heb. 12:12-14; Jude 22-23)

Have you ever: been dishonest? Hurt someone? Been offended?

When we offend others we avoid them; God says, "When you offend me, don't avoid me!"

Why we are free to be honest with God

1. God invites us to be honest with Him (Matthew 6:12);
2. God is faithful and just (1 John 1:9);
3. God is our loving Father (Matt. 6:6);
4. There is grace in our time of need (Heb. 4:15-16);
5. God waits expectantly for us (Luke 15:20);
6. God deals with us with grace and in truth (John 8:10-11)

- Grace: "Nor do I condemn you"
- Truth: "Go and sin no more."

7. God remembers our sin “no more” (Isaiah 43:25; 44:22; Micah 7:18-19)

CONCLUSION

> no honesty = no revival; you cannot, I cannot, we cannot experience God to the fullest; revival begins with humility and transparent honesty

ACTION: post-it notes on the cross

“Search me, O, God; reveal me to myself. If I am deceived, undeceive me ere it be eternally too late. Enable me to measure myself faithfully by Thy word, so that I may discover whether or not my heart has been renewed, whether I have abandoned every course of self-will and truly surrendered to Thee; whether I have so repented that I hate all sin, and fervently long to be free from its power, loathe myself and seek diligently to deny myself; whether my faith is that which overcomes the world; or whether it be only a mere notional thing which produces no godly living; whether I am a fruitful branch of the vine, or only a cumberer of the ground; in short, whether I be a new creature in Christ, or only a painted hypocrite. If I have an honest heart, then I am willing, yea anxious, to face and know the real truth about myself.” A.W. Pink