
WOLFFORK NEWS

AUGUST 2024

Revival Defined

J. I. Packer defines a revival as “God’s quickening visitation of his people, touching their hearts and deepening his work of grace in their lives.”

Robert Coleman says it is “the awakening or quickening of God’s people to their true nature and purpose.”

Richard Owen Roberts explains it as “an extraordinary movement of the Holy Spirit producing extraordinary results.”

Earle Cairns calls it “the work of the Holy Spirit in restoring the people of God to a more vital spiritual life, witness, and work by prayer and the Word after repentance in crisis for their spiritual decline.”

Andrew Murray says, “A true revival means nothing less than a revolution, casting out the spirit of worldliness, making God’s love triumph in the heart.”

And **Martyn Lloyd-Jones** had a lot to say about the subject. “Revival, above everything else, is a glorification of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is the restoration of him to the center of the life of the Church.”



12 Signs of Revival

By Dr. Joseph Castleberry, President of Northwest University

As our society goes deeper and deeper into its crisis phase, with political and ideological division, a disappearing work ethic, rampant drug use, overdoses, and suicide, total confusion in the area of sexual ethics and identity, and many, many other grave problems, Evangelical Christians have begun to call out to God for revival in the church and a great awakening in our society. But many Christians have never personally experienced a great revival and may wonder what revival entails.

What does a revival look like?

The primordial revival, recorded in Acts 2, offers at least 12 signs of revival that have historically accompanied the renewal of churches. Since the revival of Acts 2 marked the founding of the Church, one might think of it more as a “vival” rather than a “revival.” But the history of Israel stands replete with spiritual awakenings and declines. We have this treasure of God in earthen vessels, as Paul said, and no group of people has ever been able to maintain spiritual intensity on a permanent basis. The vival of Acts 2 represented the ultimate revival of Biblical faith and the beginning of its spread from Jews to Gentiles. In any case, it illustrates what happens when people experience a fresh wave of God’s grace that results in spiritual enthusiasm among the faithful and its transmission to unbelievers.

Over and over since the First Century, Christians have experienced waves of God’s renewing grace that have energized Christians and churches and given

(Continued on page 3)



Weekly Activities at Wolffork Baptist Church

Sunday:

9:30 AM—Continental Breakfast

9:45 AM—Sunday School—Bible

study for all ages

11:00 AM—Morning Worship

6:00 PM—Prayer Meeting and

Bible Study

Wednesday:

5:30 PM—Food Pantry Opens

Bill Barker, Pastor

Church number: 706-746-2728

Email: Pastor@Wolffork.org

Facebook Page:

www.Facebook.com/Wolffork

Webpage:

www.Wolffork.org

For current updates

of the church calendar:

www.Wolffork.org/events

Word for the Day

Listen daily to “Word for the Day,” the Daily Devotions from Wolffork Baptist Church at Wolffork.com/ Video-devotion or Facebook.com/Wolffork.

Listen to the Sunday Sermon at Wolffork.org/sermon.

Wolffork News



365 Bible Reading Through the Bible in 3 Years

August 2024 Readings

- 1. 1 Chronicles 20
- 2. 1 Chronicles 21
- 3. 1 Chronicles 22
- 4. 1 Chronicles 23
- 5. 1 Chronicles 24
- 6. 1 Chronicles 25
- 7. 1 Chronicles 26
- 8. 1 Chronicles 27
- 9. 1 Chronicles 28
- 10. 1 Chronicles 29
- 11. Psalms 54-55
- 12. Psalms 56-57
- 13. Psalm 58-59
- 14. Proverbs 26
- 15. Proverbs 27
- 16. James 1
- 17. James 2
- 18. James 3
- 19. James 4
- 20. James 5
- 21. 1 Peter 1
- 22. 1 Peter 2
- 23. 1 Peter 3
- 24. 1 Peter 4
- 25. 1 Peter 5
- 26. 2 Peter 1
- 27. 2 Peter 2
- 28. 2 Peter 3
- 29. 2 Chronicles 1
- 30. 2 Chronicles 2
- 31. 2 Chronicles 3



BIRTHDAYS

Emma Westbrook—9

Mike Hicks—13

Kathy Groover—18

Jensen Bradley—19

Derrick Lane—22

Mike Hood—28

Sherri Belk—29

Jonathan Garland—29

Ron Lucas—29

Martha Theus—30

ANNIVERSARIES

Mike and Sandy Cook—3

Rob and Jane Searcy—5

Allen and Margaret Howard—15

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please let Pastor Bill know.



August 4—Ivy Westbrook and Rosa Miller

August 11—Amelia McCracken and Margaret Howard

August 18—Alicia McCracken and Kim McIntire

August 25—Arlene Barker and Sherri LaRose



To Know Christ and to Make Him Known

(Continued from page 1)

new seasons of advance and growth. Such revivals include **personal quickenings**, when individuals experience a spiritual renewal with a newfound focus on Christ; **revivals of local churches** that may begin in a particular church and then spread to others; and **societal awakenings** like the Jesus Movement and the Charismatic Renewal, in which Christians receive new enthusiasm and power, millions of unbelievers are saved, and national and even global culture is affected for decades.

12 Signs of Revival

The primordial revival of Acts 2:36-47 illustrates 12 consistent signs of revival that have characterized spiritual renewal throughout church history:

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being

saved. (Acts 2:36-47 NIV)

Note the signs of revival in this passage:

Emphasis on Jesus (Acts 2:36). In Acts 2, Peter preached to the crowd gathered at Pentecost about Jesus Christ, crucified, dead, buried, and raised from the dead as Lord and Messiah. When revival comes, Jesus becomes the top priority for Christians.

Repentance (2:37-38). In revival, people experience conviction for their sins and repent and change their lifestyles. They not only walk away from patterns of sin, but they turn their attention away from petty entertainments to spend more time in pursuit of God.

A passion for prayer (2:42). Revival creates in people a new desire to pray, worship, and meditate on God. Sometimes, even in sleep, the prayers continue as God clears away our distractions and speaks to us in dreams.

Hunger for the Word (2:42). When revival comes, people want more of the Scriptures, more personal reading and study, and more exposure to preaching and teaching.

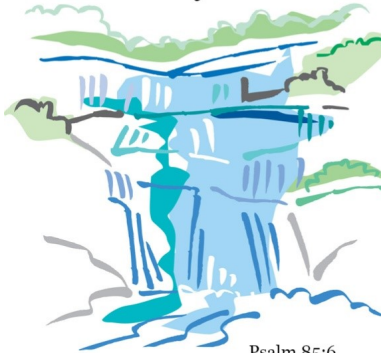
A burden for the lost (Acts 2:40). Because of the conviction of sin that comes with revival, people realize that others are lost because they are more aware of their own sin and their lostness without Jesus. In revival, we can no longer be content to let people live without being confronted with the love of Christ.

Increase in salvations (Acts 2:41, 47). Along with the new burden for souls comes a marked increase in salvations and new converts.

A surge in callings to ministry and missions (Acts 4:20). During revival, people sense God’s calling to Gospel service, whether in vocational ministry or in greater consecration of their daily work life in what others would see as secular settings. (Do you see the logical flow of these phenomena?)

The manifest presence of God (2:40, 43). God is

*Will you not revive
us again,
that your people
may rejoice
in you?*



Psalm 85:6,

(Continued on page 4)

always present, but in revival, God's presence becomes obvious among us—whether in conviction of sin, healings and signs and wonders, or reception of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Greater generosity toward the work of God (2:45).

Church offerings and other manifestations of personal giving to the work of God greatly increase during revival.

Greater frequency of corporate gatherings for worship and prayer and the Word (2:46).

Not only do the number of church activities increase, but Christians begin to meet in homes and at restaurants and other venues to spend time together to share how God is working in their lives.

Increased fellowship among Christians (2:46).

In revival, God's people experience greater love for one another that draws them together frequently and attracts unbelievers to their community.

Favor with the community (2:47).

While the early Christians saw favor with "all the people," that did not include the Sanhedrin and the Jewish leaders, who immediately began to persecute them (Acts 4:1). Both favor and opposition arise when revival begins. Mockers will always arise when revival occurs, and opposition from people in power also increases. But the joy of God's favor trumps any form of persecution or opposition.

All these signs represent precious elements of the renewal of God's work among us, but at least one more bonus sign accompanies revival that the text of Acts does not mention. People who have experienced revival in their spirit **experience greater joy in their personal lives and work.** They find they have a song in their hearts during their work time, as all of life becomes the temple of our worship and prayer. Their work ethic soars and their prosperity increases, further fueling the greater generosity mentioned in the text. Religious revival is the best thing that can happen to an economy in recession!

More than anything

Our society has many needs and faces many crises today. People disagree about the best ways to improve our common lot. But I believe that, more than anything, we need another Great Awakening in America. It will begin and must begin with the household of faith. We commonly hear that revival is a "sovereign work of God's grace," and the reality

remains that we cannot "work up" a revival, and we certainly cannot have a Great Awakening across American society by merely urging each other to have one. **But we can pray.** Prayer has always preceded revival. The Acts 2 revival began with many days of concerted prayer in the Upper Room. It is unlikely that revival has ever begun in any other way. Maybe you have been praying for revival for a long time alone. If not, start now. Maybe it's time to invite a few fellow believers to join us in our homes to pray for revival. Churches can always increase their prayers. But **more than anything else, we need to seek God**—for ourselves, our families, our neighbors, our country, **and our world.**

Patterns of Spiritual Renewal

Spiritual awakenings, whether in biblical or Church history, manifest patterns that are similar, often strikingly so. While all of the following elements may not be present in each instance, for the most part awakenings progress through a cycle whose phases include these various aspects of God's working. 1) Awakenings are usually preceded by a time of spiritual depression, apathy and gross sin, in which a majority of nominal Christians are hardly different from the members of secular society, and the churches seem to be asleep ... 2) An individual or small group of God's people becomes conscious of their sins and backslidden condition, and vows to forsake all that is displeasing to God ... 3) As some Christians begin to yearn for a manifestation of God's power, a leader or leaders arise with prophetic insights into the causes and remedies of the problems, and a new awareness of the holy and pure character of the Lord is present ... 4) The awakening of Christians occurs: many understand and take part in a higher spiritual life ... 5) An awakening may be God's means of preparing and strengthening His people for future challenges or trials.

—"Spiritual Awakenings in North America," Christian History, no. 23.

We've lost sight of the fact that some things are always right and some things are always wrong. We've lost our reference point. We don't have any moral philosophy to undergird our way of life in this country, and our way of life is in serious jeopardy and serious danger unless something happens. And that something must be a spiritual revival. —Billy Graham