

In Search of Revival

A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work.

1 SM 121

I. Study on Revival (Re-Vivere) – Ezek. 37:1-14

A. Why did the revival happen? (FIRST CAUSE)

1. Who asked for it in this passage?
2. Good News! – God takes the initiative!

B. What brought new life?

1. Breath – that’s a symbol of what?
2. Example: Aaron’s Rod – Num. 17/Heb. 9:3-4
3. Jesus’ words – John 7:37-39 (Living Water)

C. What brought the Holy Spirit? (Word of God – Truth)

1. John 14:16-17 – Spirit of Truth
2. We must receive the truth if we will receive the Spirit. (Truth matters! Importance of doctrine)

The Comforter is called “the Spirit of truth.” His work is to define and maintain the truth. He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus He becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood. It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind. By directing men to false standards, he misshapes the character. Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart. Thus He exposes error, and expels it from the soul. It is by the Spirit of truth, working through the word of God, that Christ subdues His chosen people to Himself. {DA 671.1}

3. Address counterfeit outpouring of Spirit
4. Without the Spirit of Truth we can’t truly appreciate Christ.
 - a. John 16:14 – He shall glorify Me (Glasses)
 - b. John 14:18 – personal presence of Christ
5. Spirit of truth brings peace – Jn. 14:26-27 & DA 671 - Story – Air Traffic Controller I met

D. What steps led to the great revival in Ezek. 37?

1. Noise – What is this noise?

- a. 383 X’s = “Voice”, 49 X’s “Noise”
- b. Psalm 5:3; 55:17; 66:19
- c. Other Clue – What are the first results of the work of the Spirit of Truth? (John 16:8)
- d. Third clue – Luke 11:19
- e. A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our heavenly Father is more willing

to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. {ISM 121.1}

2. Shaking – why a shaking?

- a. See Ezek. 26:10 & 15 for other examples
- b. Connected with the noise – indicates the magnitude of the noise or the event that caused the noise.
- c. “Satan knows better than God’s people the power that they can have over him when their strength is in Christ . . . Satan cannot endure to have his powerful rival appealed to, for he fears and trembles before His strength and majesty. At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan’s whole host trembles.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol 1, p. 341, 346

3. Bones Come Together

- a. Symbolism of body – 1 Cor. 12:12 & 27
- b. Many bodies (a great army, whole house of Israel)
- c. Small groups coming together
- d. Small Group Quotes

“Why do not believers feel a deeper, more earnest concern for those who are out of Christ? Why do not two or three meet together and plead with God for the salvation of some special one, and then for still another?” *Testimonies For the Church, Vol. 7, 21*

“Let small companies assemble in the evening, at noon, or in the early morning to study the Bible. Let them have a season of prayer, that they may be strengthened, enlightened, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. This work Christ wants to have done in the heart of every worker. If you yourselves will open the door to receive it, a great blessing will come to you. Angels of God will be in your assembly. . . . Christ will come into your hearts. It is by this means only that you can maintain your integrity.” *Testimonies For the Church, Vol. 9, 195*

“The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, . . .” *Testimonies For the Church, Vol. 7, 21-22*

“God’s work is to be done in his way and his Spirit. In various places small companies are to consecrate themselves to God, body, soul, and spirit, and laying hold of the throne of God by faith they are to work zealously, keeping their souls in the love of God. The vital current of his love will make itself felt, and will be recognized as from heaven in the good works of his people. . . . *Ellen G. White, “Followers of Christ Will be Missionaries,” Adventist Review and Sabbath Herald, January 8, 1895*

“Small companies are to go forth to do the work to which Christ appointed His disciples.” *Counsels on Health, 501*

“In the church there was a revival of the missionary spirit. An earnest desire to learn how to work for the Lord was shown. Small companies gathered for prayer and Bible study. All moved forward with harmonious action.” *Ellen White, “A Call to All Our People,” The Indiana Reporter, February 25, 1903*

CONCLUSION: Why Jesus needed to go for the Holy Spirit to come

- A. Spirit here from the beginning – Gen. 1
- B. John 14:25-26/Acts 2:1 – A First!

Before this the Spirit had been in the world; from the very beginning of the work of redemption He had been moving upon men's hearts. But while Christ was on earth, the disciples had desired no other helper. Not until they were deprived of His presence would they feel their need of the Spirit, and then He would come. {DA 669.1}

The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, but divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof. Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally. Therefore it was for their interest that He should go to the Father, and send the Spirit to be His successor on earth. No one could then have any advantage because of his location or his personal contact with Christ. By the Spirit the Saviour would be accessible to all. In this sense He would be nearer to them than if He had not ascended on high. {DA 669.2}