

## Revival for Australia



We are now living in a time of great depreciation of Godly family values, we are living in a time where people want to be god and use themselves as their reference point for their belief system,.I heard one pastor : "We have a right to believe whatever we want, but not everything we believe is right."

Only recently radical laws have been passed in Victoria criminalising Christians who counsel and pray for people struggling with their sexuality.

Why is this happening all around the world?

Doctor James Emery White in his paper" **How we broke the World**" shares some interesting insights. ( Emery writes for the New York times and is not a christian)

Our world is broken. Now more than ever. We are collectively crying out for change and for people and institutions to "do something"

Whether it's the pandemic, unemployment, climate change or racism.

**Most know that the human heart lies at the centre of most changes**, particularly something like racism, but Have no idea how to change it.

The world is broken morally and spiritually.

Specifically, we have no moral compass, we have no transcendent sense of what is right or wrong, no idea of "**true north**" in terms of behaviour. As a result, we make decisions based on the lowest possible sense of morality,

"if it makes me happy and doesn't hurt you I am free to proceed. Of course when what makes me happy does hurt you, I will then be inclined ( because I have no moral compass) to make my own personal pleasure paramount."

And without a spiritual anchor, we have no transcendent sense of what is true or false;

We are individualised boats tossed about on the surface of the ocean, blown here and there at the **whim of the cultural winds**.

Note that a spiritual anchor is vastly different than mere spirituality which is vacuous in nature and more akin to the sound of your own voice. ( showing a lack of thought or intelligence, mindless)

**A spiritual anchor is spirituality rooted in the transcendent truth; that there is a God who has not been silent and knows precisely who He is and asks us to come to know Him.**

Never in history have we lived in a time as such as this . Now is the time for the church to take the Great Commission seriously and Prayer for our nation.

There will come a time, were will not be permitted to share the Gospel with anyone for fear of persecution.

The foundation of this country has been built on Ju deo Christian belief system but because the church is becoming more worldly and immoral we have lost our voice to speak on morality.

But there is still a remnant that are hungry for God, there are pockets of meetings of Christians who are praying for Revival for Australia.

In the late nineteenth century Smith Wigglesworth prophesied that the last and great spiritual awakening will start in Australia. The term used for Australia is

"The great South Land of the Holy Spirit."

Modern prophets have said Revival will start in Queensland, it will come down to Sydney and across to Western Australia covering our continent then revival will move to New Zealand and the rest of the world.

**The next revival will be heaven sent revival. I say heaven sent revival because it is not something that springs up or out of the normal activities of the Christian church. but something that comes down to us from above.**

**Isaiah 11:9** For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Surely when it comes to the church and our spiritual life the question we need to ask.

**God surely there has to be more than this, Revive us again O God, awaken the church.**

We need to start to seriously cry out for God to pour out His Holy Spirit on our nation.

**D.M Panton** describes spiritual revival as "an inrush of divine life into a body threatening to become a corpse."

**Christmas Evans** an old Welsh preacher whom God used to stir the nation of Wales on several occasions, had this to say about the subject.

"Revival is God bending down to the dying embers of a fire just about to go out and breathing into it until it bursts into flame."

**Quite simply revival means "to wake up and live"**

Whichever way we look at it, revival is life at its best, life in all fullness, life abundant, life overflowing with the grace and power of God.

There is an amazing example of this in

**Ezekiel 37:1-14 (ESV)**

**The Valley of Dry Bones**

37 The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley;[a] it was full of bones. **2** And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. **3** And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." **4** Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. **5** Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath[b] to enter you, and you shall live. **6** And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

**7** So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling,[c] and the bones came together, bone to its bone. **8** And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. **9** Then he said to

me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." **10** So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

**11** Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' **12** Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. **13** And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. **14** And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

The great preacher **G. Campbell Morgan** said this of revival;

**"Revival is the reanimation of the life of the believer not the unbeliever as they are dead in sin, there can only be revival where there is life to revive."**

Please understand I am a great believer in Evangelism. There is nothing more precious for Sonja and I than when we are engaging with people to help them discover Jesus as the saviour of the world.

**BUT Evangelism is the expression of the Church; Revival is an experience in the church. Evangelism is the work man does for God: Revival is the work God does for man.**

The church needs revival because there is too much of the world in the church, we have become lovers of pleasure and materialism which has produced a stubborn commitment to **independence from God** and we need to repent of that.

#### **Psalm 85:4-6(ESV)**

**4** Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us!

**5** Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

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

Throughout the history of Israel we see that the nation did not stay loyal to God as the pagans were to their own gods.

A fact so true that God calls the heavens to bear witness to it.

#### **Jeremiah 2:4-13 (ESV)**

**4** Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the clans of the house of Israel. **5** Thus says the Lord:

"What wrong did your fathers find in me  
that they went far from me,  
and went after worthlessness, and became worthless?

**6** They did not say, 'Where is the Lord

who brought us up from the land of Egypt,  
who led us in the wilderness,  
in a land of deserts and pits,  
in a land of drought and deep darkness,  
in a land that none passes through,  
where no man dwells?’

**7** And I brought you into a plentiful land  
to enjoy its fruits and its good things.  
But when you came in, you defiled my land  
and made my heritage an abomination.

**8** The priests did not say, ‘Where is the Lord?’  
Those who handle the law did not know me;  
the shepherds[a] transgressed against me;  
the prophets prophesied by Baal  
and went after things that do not profit.

**9** “Therefore I still contend with you,  
declares the Lord,  
and with your children's children I will contend.

**10** For cross to the coasts of Cyprus and see,  
or send to Kedar and examine with care;  
see if there has been such a thing.

**11** Has a nation changed its gods,  
even though they are no gods?  
But my people have changed their glory  
for that which does not profit.

**12** Be appalled, O heavens, at this;  
be shocked, be utterly desolate,  
declares the Lord,

**13** for my people have committed two evils:  
they have forsaken me,  
the fountain of living waters,  
and hewed out cisterns for themselves,  
broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Can you see what happened to Israel?

They had started off in absolute dependence on God, worshipping only Him and drinking from His fresh wells, but after a while they had felt within them the urge to take control of their spiritual lives and manage them as they thought fit.

**And whenever God's people do this, no matter how positive and seemingly active their spiritual life may be, they are desperately in need of revival.**

Nothing is more destructive to see within the people of God than the **desire for self-control and self dependency.**

We must face the facts that as human beings we were created dependent and that God alone is independent.  
**He can exist with out us but we can not exist without Him.**

You might ask, "What is the solution?"

The stepping stone from independency is always through the door of repentance.

Doctor Selwyn Hughes says: ***'In revival God underlines in a vivid and dramatic way the truth to a continuous relationship with Him is through continuous repentance.'***

We need to shift away from dependence on one's resources to dependence on the living God.

Some scholars agree on one thing, that hinders revival is by people's **view of the church**. Some see the church as an Institution a club to hang out with your friends and **to them revival becomes unnecessary and irrelevant.**

We are reminded through out scriptures of the early church in the book of Acts. It was a loving community of believers who gave themselves to prayer, teaching and the preaching of the Word. And God added many to their numbers because they went out to the community and shared the Gospel. They were all baptised in the Holy Spirit . **And the secret of her survival in this world is to continually opening herself to the Spirit who gave her life.**

The church was not only born of the Spirit who gave her life but **survives and thrives by the Spirit.**

No Spirit . No life ( PAUSE)

**Revival in the past had opposition from religious people who wanted order and stability in their service they shunned emotionalism and any move of the Holy Spirit because the move of God did not fit into their preconceived ideas of how a church should function.**

One report of the Irish Revival in 1858 said this:

Careless sinners broke down and wept like children . Drunkards were awed into solemn silence. Often people did not go to bed for two or three nights. Passersby heard people crying aloud for mercy inside their houses calling out to God in prayer, or singing hymns. **The faces of the new converts beamed with joy that the newly saved were easily identified.** When a message was given, many people fell on the ground before the speaker. The meeting continued through the night. **Many of the new converts received a marvellous fluency and power of prayer. A hatred of sin, love for the Saviour, a zeal for His cause, and affection for one another and an anxiety about perishing sinners, took possession of their hearts, and literally ruled and governed their actions.**

Such TIMES came even during ordinary Sunday service. People were drawn by the Holy Spirit presence to come to church. repeatedly were smitten to the ground by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.

**A Church of England minister reporting on the revival, emphasised that all denominations were affected and young men of the worst character after being saved, prayed powerful prayers superior to any minister's.**

Often the scripture that was recited was Psalm 85:6

**"Will you revive us again, that we your people may rejoice in YOU."**

One Baptist church pleaded with God continuously the words of Isaiah 64:1

**"Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down."**

**They would plead with God , send Revival for Jesus sake Father send revival. It seemed that believers grabbed hold of God and would not let go till he blessed them .**

Having their hearts warmed by the Holy Spirit , God moved on young children in the schools It was reported

young children met to pray everywhere, in houses, schoolrooms and along the roads. **Revival fire spread from nation to nation**, England, Wales, Ireland, America, India and South Africa and China and South Korea

Sometimes the message from the pulpit was focused on one verse like; "**You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you**"

People would tremble and cry out to God to save them from the fires of Hell.

One writer says that "whilst we must be cautious about excesses of emotion we must make equally sure that we do not quench the Spirit by intellectualism and unwillingness to accept the supernatural that is everywhere portrayed in the scriptures."

We have all seen mega churches, people sitting comfortably in the pews

The Church may **be numerically strong** and well-represented in different parts of the world **but since when has her strength been in her numbers.**

Without **His presence** in the Church, energising and reviving. There may be plenty of lights and noise and perhaps a fog machine **but little life.**

Generally speaking the Church, has been good at protecting its **theological position, but not so good at preserving life.**

**That is why** at certain times and in certain generations God mercifully **breaks in upon His people to revive and refresh them** by His Holy Spirit. **In every century the Christian Church has stood in need of a new invasion of that life. Perhaps never so much as now.**

History has demonstrated to us that the key to Revival is prayer,

**Prayer** that is energised by the Holy Spirit. God is calling a people who will hunger and pursue Him, a people **who pursue His presence** where ever they are **at home on the bus, on the train at work.**

It is important to ask the Lord to burden us, to press on our hearts a love for the lost and for Him to **awaken the church** by pouring out His Holy Spirit upon His people.

Charles Spurgeon, when teaching on prayer, used to say:

Every promise of Scripture is a writing of God which may be placed before Him in reasonable request.

Psalms 119:25 "**Revive me according to your Word.**"

The Creator will not cheat His creatures who depend on the truth of God's Word. Our Heavenly Father will not break His own word to His own child. Our forefathers discovered that prayers which plead the clear promises of a covenant-keeping God are guaranteed success. It is time we discovered that too.

**A promise has been described, "A written declaration that binds the person who makes it to do or forbear to do a specified act"**

**The validity and dependability of any promise rests on the character and the resources of the one who makes it.**

**It is the holy character and faithfulness of God that makes all His promises credible**

An important characteristic which is often observed in God-inspired revival praying is a new and **fresh commitment to walk in holiness.**

Hebrews 12:14 says 'Pursue holiness, for without holiness no one will see the Lord.

**Jerry Bridges** in his excellent book, "The pursuit of Holiness" has some really amazing insights. He says , "**To live a holy life, is to live in conformity to the moral precepts of the Bible and in contrast to the sinful ways of the world.** It is a life characterised by the "putting off of your old self. which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.... and putting on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness ( Ephesians 4:22, 24)

**Jerry says that our problem as Christians is our attitude towards sin is more self-centred than God-centred.** We are more concerned about **our own 'victory' over sin than we are about the fact that our sins grieve the heart of God** . We can not tolerate failure in our struggle with sin chiefly because we are success-oriented, **not because we know it is offensive to God.**

W.S Plumber said;" **We never see sin aright until we see it as against God... All sin is against God in this sense: that is it is His law that is broken, His authority that is despised."**

The Lord is more concerned in his people walking in obedience\_ rather than victory. Allow me to explain.

**Obedience is oriented towards God: victory is oriented towards self.** This is not to say God doesn't want us to experience victory, but we must understand **that victory is a by -product of obedience.** As we concentrate on living an obedient, holy life we will certainly experience the joy of victory over sin.

**We must face the fact that we have a personal responsibility for our walk of holiness.**

One pastor said : "You can put away that habit that has mastered you if you truly desire to do so"

I love what **Jonathan Edwards** said:" I, **Resolve, never to do anything which I would be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life."**

Numerous times Jesus said if you love me you will obey my commands.

Allow me to conclude with the famous words of King Solomon

God at His own initiative voluntarily gave us, His people, the covenant of Revival in 2 Chronicles 7:12-14

He must be true to His covenant word, and awaits for us to fulfil our part of this revival covenant.

Can I ask you to stand with me as we seek God to pour out His Holy Spirit on us as His people.

Allow me to read to us 2 Chronicles 7 :12-15

Then the Lord appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a home of sacrifice. If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people and **my people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sins, and will heal their land.**

**Now My eyes shall be open and my ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place.**

Come Holy Spirit fill us a fresh, come Lord fill this place with your glory.

As the Holy Spirit touches you come quickly and pray for our church and our nation