

Why REVIVAL Tarries 2 Chronicles 7:14

In 1904 a young high school student named Evan Roberts, felt that God wanted to bring a revival to Wales, which is part of Great Britain. He began attending various revival meetings and in one of them, the Holy Spirit moved so deeply that he cried out to God to be broken and he surrendered his life unconditionally to the Lord.

Roberts returned to his church looking forward to share this message of revival, and his pastor allowed him to speak after a service. Only 17 people stayed to hear Evan speak, most of them were teenagers and young adults. They were impressed with this young man's passion. Roberts said to have a message from God for all and spoke for nearly two hours, letting everyone know about the 4 things necessary for God to send a revival.

1. **Confess** all known sins to God and deal with wrong done to others
2. **Abandon** any "doubtful" area of your life
3. **Obey** the Holy Spirit promptly
4. **Proclaim** Christ publicly

When Roberts was finished speaking all 17 young people were at the altar on their knees crying out to God. They prayed until 2:00 am that night, and it was the beginning of one of the greatest movements of God in all history. By the end of the week, over 60 people were won to Christ and over the course of the next year and a half revival swept through the nation of Wales. In the first six months, over 100,000 people were led to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Within one year 150,000 had come to Christ. The revival spread throughout Wales and more than 1 million people gave their lives to Jesus Christ.

The revival was so impactful that many things in society changed dramatically: no thefts or assaults, or rapes, or murders, or embezzlement, nothing. The revival touched all areas of society.

Times have changed and our world is not like 1904. We are surrounded by sin, evil, injustice, many people turning their backs on God, and instead of Churches impacting the world it is the world that is impacting the Churches .

Today it seems impossible to have a revival like this, and probably we aren't expecting it to happen. But we need a deep moving of the Spirit, more than ever. Could it be that God changed from 1904 to today? Could it be that the Holy Spirit does not have the same power? No, God has not changed, but I can't say the same of us, His people.

Why revival doesn't come and we experience more of God? Because:

- We want the move of the Spirit, without changing
- We want to hear the truth, but live as though we don't know it
- We want to dance, shout and sing without personal involvement
- We want more power, without having to forsake sin
- We want the blessing of God without doing what He expects of us
- We want the blessings of God without us being a blessing
- We want to hear sound doctrine without having to obey it
- We want the message of salvation to be preached without us having to proclaim it
- We want to talk about separation from the world, but live like the world
- We want to be loved by everyone, but without having to love everyone
- We want to be forgiven without having to forgive those who sin against us
- We want good experiences in the Church, but without committing to the church
- We want a changed life, without repentance
- We want God to come to our house, without us having to go to His
- We want revival, without paying a price
- We want a life with resurrection power, without taking up our cross

These and other things, are the reasons why we don't see a revival and a deeper move of the Holy Spirit in our lives. But, more than ever, we desperately need a revival. If God did something so extraordinary in 1904 and on other occasions before and after that date, He can do it today.

God's desire is to listen, to forgive and restore but His promises are conditional meaning: *"If you do this I will answer."* God expects specific things of us before bringing revival, and for that to happen we have to meet the following conditions: **If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.** 2 Chronicles 7:14

Notice that God is speaking to his people and not to outsiders: **If my people who are called by my name...** Revival begins with God's people, you and me. Unfortunately many times, God is outside of our lives and our churches asking to come inside, to be invited to be part of our lives.

The Church of Laodicea in an example of that. In Revelation 3:20 tells them: **I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and we will eat together.** It is sad to notice that they were gathering in His name and yet He was not in their midst. The same goes for many who call themselves Christians, who use the name of Christ and yet don't allow Jesus to be at the center of their lives.

Let's look at the conditions God gives for revival to come:

1^a Condition. If my people will HUMBLE themselves

God wants His people to be humble themselves because that means living in submission, live surrendered to the Lord. When we humble ourselves we are telling God that He is in control of our lives. That's why Roberts wanted to be broken by the Lord.

When we humble ourselves before God, we are allowing His will to be done in us. From the moment we allow God to break our lives, nothing is as before, we will never be the same. Revival is not the result of more and more knowledge, but results and it is proportional to the brokenness in our life.

Psalms 51:16-17 says: **You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.** Only a broken heart is big enough for God to dwell.

It's not easy to find broken hearts and broken leaders and churches. But imagine what the Lord can do with someone like that!

2^a Condition. If my People will humble themselves and PRAY

One of the keys for revival is prayer. Without prayer there is no revival. If you want to know if God is going to revive you check your prayer life. If we want God to revive our church we need more prayer.

When we pray, we are connecting our lives with God and when we connect with Him, amazing things happen, He pours into our lives and his Church. This is why prayer is essential for us to experience revival.

3^a Condition. If my People will humble themselves and pray and SEEK MY FACE

Seeking is different from praying - The Hebrew word for seeking, means "to deeply desire". It means to employ all possible means with the intention of finding something we desire intensely. That's what God expects from us.

I remember when I started dating my wife that I had a great desire to be with her and sought every opportunity to do so. That exemplifies what it is to seek and desire to be with someone. But as it happens with many relationships, we get used to those we say we love and we stop to seek and desire their presence.

One of the main reasons why we don't see the move of God, is because we don't desire Him deeply enough, we aren't in love with Him. There is a personal price that must be paid in pursuit of revival. It's not about going from meeting to meeting, without committing to anything or to anyone, it's not about seeking experiences but not wanting to change, but it's about obeying what He demands of you and me.

In 1904 the youth of Roberts's church wanted a revival so much that they sought God intensely. The church today doesn't experience revival because we've aren't looking for Him with the same desire. Just check what has happened to the prayer meetings in churches, they offer many activities but there is little prayer.

Prov. 8.17 says that: **Those who search will surely find me** and Jeremiah 29.13 adds: **You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.** We'll find God and experience His power when we start to desire deeply what He alone can give.

4^a Condition. If my People will humble themselves and pray and seek my face AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS Revival won't happen in our lives until we confess and forsake our sins. Sin makes us slaves and takes away God's freedom; it's like a chain or an anchor wrapped around your body. We need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and be willing to give up everything that He considers wicked. It is sad to see Christians accepting, watching, approving and participating in things that offend the Lord. We must be willing to give up everything that offends His Holiness.

Conclusion

What was it that made the Welsh revival so powerful and impactful? It wasn't the eloquence of Roberts or his preaching. Neither was it the frequency nor duration of his prayers, although that was important. The revival came because Roberts wanted to be broken by God and because he unconditionally surrendered his life to Him. Roberts was willing to align his life with God's will and fulfilled what God expected of him. This is why God used him and not his pastor.

His prayer was the result of a deep thirst for God. It was a submission to the purposes and plans of the Almighty God. I firmly believe that God wants to bring revival to your life, our church, this community, this country. But we have to ask ourselves if we want to be revived. If you want to experience personal revival you have to meet the requirements of God.

This is how we prepare for revival:

Humble yourself, pray, seek God's face,

- 1. Confess** all known sins to God and deal with wrong done to others
- 2. Abandon** any "doubtful" area of your life, wicked ways
- 3. Obey** the Holy Spirit promptly
- 4. Proclaim** Christ publicly

How will God respond when you do this? According to 2 Chronicles 7:14 God promises: **I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.** When we humble ourselves and abandon our wicked ways and seek His face, we'll be revived. God loves to restore what's broken and to breathe life into what's dead.

But for that to happen we must make a way for God in our hearts. We don't have to live away from him, especially when we know that He wants to revive us. Ask God to light the fire in you, ask Him to revive you, and begin doing what God expects of you now.

Your spouse needs you to be broken by the Lord, parents need their children to be broken by the Lord, our church needs a pastor broken by the Lord, our church needs members broken by the Lord, this city and this nation needs Churches broken by the Lord because brokenness brings healing and restoration. Let us turn to God and begin to walk with Him.