

Studies on Revival

Obstacles to Revival

“Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.” – Isaiah 59:1-2

I. Revival Roadblocks

- These are some of the problems that hinder our spiritual growth.
- Sin – Psalm 66:18
 - More specifically, sin in lives of believers
 - These sins are especially those committed regularly and rebelliously
- Complacency and Apathy – Revelation 3:16
 - Are we too comfortable with the *status quo* to embrace Revival?
- Shallow Christianity – Matthew 13:20-21
 - “Sunday morning Christianity is the greatest hindrance to true revival.” – Vance Havner
 - The Christian life should be *all* the time in *all* areas of our lives
 - Faith that takes us to Heaven should as a byproduct affect how we live on earth.
- Distraction – Philippians 3:12-14
 - One of Satan’s greatest weapons today is busy-ness.
 - “If Satan can't make you bad, he'll make you busy.” – Adrian Rogers
- Routine – Exodus 3:2-4
 - Too often we like our lives as they are and reject changes.
- Self-Centeredness – Philippians 2:3-4
 - As if we say, “not *thy* will, my *mine* be done”!

II. The Cost of Revival

- Salvation is freely given to men, but serving God usually includes a price we must pay – II Samuel 24:24
- Simply, our everything. We must surrender ourselves wholly to God
 - Example: Desires and plans – Matthew 8:21-22
 - Example: Wealth and possessions – Matthew 19:22
- Fervent prayer is the one action continually expressed in Scripture and history as vital for Revival
 - “There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.” – A.T. Pierson

“It was wonderful to see the change soon made in the manners of our inhabitants...From being thoughtless or indifferent about religion, it seemed as if all the world were growing religious, so that one could not walk through the town in an evening without hearing psalms sung in different families of every street.” – Benjamin Franklin, on the effects of George Whitefield’s preaching