

Acts 6:1-4
And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. We see how the apostles assigned other people to handle matters that could have caused distractions for them.

3. Through preparations via training.
In the book of Acts chapter 2, we see how a revival sprung up as the work started with the 12 disciples of Jesus and then they increased to 70 men and then they increased to 120 men and eventually they became 3,000 men. This goes to show that men were continually trained and taught who in turn were able to train other men as they increased. The training and preparations are carried out in prayers, retreat and in the study of God’s word to sustain a revival. In order to sustain revival, we must be prepared in the place of prayer and the training of the spirit.

4. Through hunger
Revivals are a way to see that the spirit of God is moving in the earth today. Revival will not last if the hunger for it is not kept. We must be hungry for revivals and to see that the word of God is growing and prevailing.
Acts 19:20
So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.
We see that men were receiving the word of God and that they were being trained and that they were growing. If the hunger for revival is not kept, it can kill the move of God on the earth.

5. Through accommodation of men and walking in love
Revival is sustained when there is no division among the church. Therefore, we must learn to accommodate all and walk in love towards everyone as the church must be a no-judgment zone. We must ensure to not discriminate against anyone and to welcome everyone in order to sustain the revival.
Revival is a move of the spirit and the move of the spirit of God shows God’s plan for the earth. God wants the whole earth to come to the knowledge of his glory. The believer is the only hope that God has because God needs man to carry out his plan on the earth. He needs the believer to restore things back.
“In our day, we see it possible and hence, we say the mission of God is possible.”

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REVIVAL



What is Revival?

Genesis 1:2-3

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

The word **“revival”** in Greek means **“to restore”** which implies to bring something back. Revival is seen in Genesis 1:3 when God said **“Let there be light”** and this was not a physical light but a spiritual light. God called something to be, bringing to pass the exact purpose of God for the Earth. God saw the darkness and he restored light to be.

The phrase **“without form and void”** means **nothing, an inhabitable wasteland, a desert that no one can live in**. This describes what the world was like. God cannot dwell in darkness and He would not let the men who would be in His image remain in darkness, which is why He separated the light from darkness. When a man believes the gospel, the light of gospel shines into his heart hence removing the man from the state of darkness.

2 Corinthians 4:4

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

John 8:12

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

When God saw the darkness, He initiated a revival by calling light into existence. Today, we witness many people caught up in various social vices, prompting us to ask, "Is the Earth as it's supposed to be?" The answer is **"No,"** which indicates a dire need for revival. Just as in Genesis 1:3, where God brought light to dispel darkness, we are called to restore the Earth to God's original plan. Revival is necessary to realign our world with His purpose.

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The devil is always seeking to attack those whom God intends to use for His purposes. Relentless in his efforts, the enemy's mission is to disrupt God's plans by targeting His chosen vessels. We see this in how the devil stirred Cain to kill Abel, attempting to prevent Abel from fulfilling God's purpose. Despite these attacks, God has consistently worked to restore and realign things according to His divine plan. Nothing the enemy does can ultimately thwart God's purpose. Anytime a man is saved, the man is saved into a plan and born into an agenda. God's plan and agenda is a kingdom invasion plan. God created the Earth and wants to invade the entire earth with his glory which is for all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of his word.

Genesis 1:26-28

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

God's plan is for man to replenish the earth, to be fruitful, to multiply, and to subdue the earth. In as much as God has a plan, the devil also has a plan. The devil's plan is to ensure that God's plan does not come to pass. This is why **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** states that when the gospel is hidden, it is the god of this world (the devil) who blinds the minds of men. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

God's plan is for man to come to the light while the devil's plan is to spread darkness. Hence, there is an adversary who is against God's plan. The devil's plan is clearly to deceive man away from God's plan of having men to replenish the earth, to be fruitful, to multiply, and to subdue the earth.

Genesis 3:1-5

1 Now the serpent was more subtile than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

God has a mission on this earth and the devil also has a mission.

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

The mandate and plan of God was what the people in the scriptures who fulfilled God's plan walked in. Jesus upon his resurrection, also reiterated that same plan

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Therefore, revival is to bring something back, to restore back God's plan and God wants us to stir up revivals on the earth.

What are the signs of revival?

1. Darkness covering a place

When darkness covers a place it shows that there is a need for light. When there are several inequities and immoralities happening, it shows that there is a need for God's light to intervene and overcome those negative vices. When darkness covers a place, it is a sign that the believing man needs to bring God's light to that place and chase the darkness out.

2. Stirrings and hunger in the heart of men

God puts the pangs and cries in the hearts of believers to cause them to be unhappy with the state of darkness in the city. This is another sign that a revival and restoration is much needed. Believers will find themselves with a holy anger and grief towards the several vices happening in the city that will stir them up in prayers to continually pray. There will be stirrings to pray, stirrings to fast and stirrings to retreat.

3. The need for training

God will begin to breathe in the heart of men to train people. God inspires the training of the Spirit and God's method is the local church.

Who are agents of Revival?

Agents of revival are men who like you and I God uses. God uses men to stir up revival and carry out his plan. Revival will happen when there are yielding and willing men who are ready to give themselves to consecration. A yielding man is an agent of revival who must be willing and able to yield to instructions. An agent of revival must be given to consecration just like John the Baptist who retreated in the wilderness and was restricted to a certain kind of food. For a move of God to happen, men have to be yielding and given to prayer, fasting, consecration and be available for God to use.

What hinders Revival?

We have established that revival is a move of the spirit and it is to restore things back as this is God's big plan for the earth. As we have learnt, the devil will always bring hindrances to try to stop God's plan. Some of the hindrances include:

1. Lack of unity among believers

Revival is a move of the spirit and the best way to see the flow of the spirit move in our midst is when we are in one accord. A lack of unity amongst believers will always kill the move of the spirit. Therefore, for there to be a move of the spirit, we have to be in one accord. The disciples in the book of Acts were in one accord.

Acts 2:1

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 2:46

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.

2. Lack of desire for the supernatural and the things of the spirit

One way that the move of the spirit can be hindered in our generation is when believers are not desirous for it. As believers, we must always desire a strong move of the spirit and contend for the supernatural. We must never be satisfied with little but should always contend for more. A believer should never be complacent or be weary as there is always more in the things of God. There is more to see, more to do, more sicknesses to heal, more to study, more prayers to do, more fastings to do, more preachings to do, more words of knowledge to give, more visions to see, more revelations of the spirit to see, more healings and miracles to perform. We must desire supernatural things and we must desire it again and again. When we see what God has done and when we see what God is doing, we must ensure to go for more.

3. Lack of repentance among believers

Repentance means a change of mindset. For us to see revivals in our days, we must have a change of mindset and re-adjust our minds to see what God is doing. Repentance doesn't just mean to think but rather to have a change of mindset. One way the move of the spirit is being hindered is when there is a lack of repentance which is a change of mindset about the move of God.

4. Lack of spiritual hunger for the move of God

As believers, we've got to have a strong hunger for the things of the spirit.

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. We must be hungry for the move of the spirit. Spiritual hunger is such as desiring to see the move of God on the earth today.

How can Revival be sustained?

Revival is the move of God on the earth. God has always been interested in revivals being sustained so he would raise men to sustain revivals. Revival sparks up from a meeting but it is not limited to a meeting. The fruit of a revival should always exceed the time of the awakening of that revival. This means that the duration of a revival is dependent on man and God is depending on a yielding man for the revival to happen.

1. Through prayer

Prayer is the way to sustain a revival. If prayer is what starts a revival, prayer is what will also sustain the revival. Anna the prophetess prayed for 54 years.

Luke 2:36-37

And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; 37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

a. Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days and 40 nights.

Matthew 4:1-2

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

b. The disciples in the book of Acts never stopped praying.

Acts 3:1

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer; being the ninth hour.

Acts 6:4

But we will give ourselves continually to prayer; and to the ministry of the word.

c. The disciples saw an attitude of prayer in Jesus.

Luke 11:1

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. There are phases in revival. If prayer starts, we need prayer to get through to the next phases. Prayer gets revival started and prayer continues it.

2. Through discernment in avoiding distractions

As an agent of revival, there are things that will come as a distraction to stop God's plan from coming to pass hence, we must have discernment in avoiding these distractions. Some of these distractions will seem legitimate and urgent but we must be able to point out these distractions and avoid them.