

PREPARING FOR REVIVAL

3. A Message from Jesus

(Member's Notes)

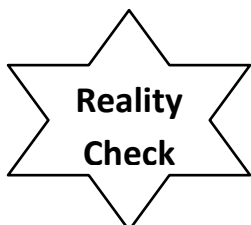


Introduction

Revival doesn't just happen! As we have seen in the examples from the lives of King Hezekiah and Josiah, there is a time of preparation. Let's now turn to a passage in the New Testament. These are words spoken by Jesus himself to the churches in that day, telling them what they needed to do to be revived.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 2:1-4, 3:14-22

- ❖ Many Christians are on fire for God when they first come to know Christ, but as time goes on that fire cools down. Although Jesus commends the church in Ephesus, there was also something that grieved him. What was it? Revelation 2:4
- ❖ The Christians at Laodicea had a similar problem. How did Jesus describe them? Revelation 3:15-16
- ❖ Did the Christians at Laodicea think there was anything wrong with their lives? How did they see themselves? Revelation 3:17
- ❖ What was their real condition according to Jesus? Revelation 3:17-18
- ❖ When Jesus described the Christians like this, what do you think he meant?
- ❖ What did Jesus tell these believers in Ephesus and Laodicea to do? Revelation 2:5, 3:18-19
- ❖ What invitation did Jesus give to those in Ephesus? Revelation 3:20



1. Are you reading your Bible regularly?
2. Are you praying often, not just for yourself, but others too?
3. Do you love to talk about Jesus?
4. Do you long to come into God's presence?
5. Is Church attendance important to you?

If you know in your heart you cannot answer yes to these questions, then perhaps you are losing your first love. If you really want to see revival, it begins with us. We need to be sincere and repent and do what we did when we first came to Christ.

- ❖ What warning did Jesus give if these believers did not listen to him? Revelation 2:5, 3:16
- ❖ However if they repented they would receive all that God had prepared for them. What was that? Revelation 2:7, 3:21

Conclusion

In Psalm 85:6 it says, "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" It is easy to lose the fire we once had and become lukewarm like those in Laodicea. We know the church needs revival, but it begins with individuals. Let's ask God to revive us. The first step is to repent. God's promise is, "If 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 and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14