

## **PREPARING FOR REVIVAL**

### **3. A Message from Jesus**



#### **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

*(They had forsaken their first love for Jesus.)*

- ❖ The Christians at Laodicea had a similar problem. How did Jesus describe them? Revelation 3:15-16

*(They were neither hot nor cold. They were lukewarm.)*

- ❖ Did the Christians at Laodicea think there was anything wrong with their lives? How did they see themselves? Revelation 3:17

*(No, they didn't think there was anything wrong. They thought they didn't need anything.)*

- ❖ What was their real condition according to Jesus? Revelation 3:17-18

*(They were wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.)*

- ❖ When Jesus described the Christians like this, what do you think he meant?

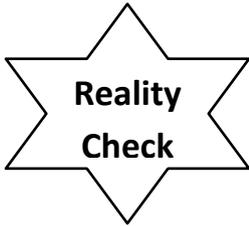
*(Although they were rich in material goods, they were in a sad state spiritually. They didn't realise they were poor spiritually. They couldn't see and understand spiritual truths and were not clothed in the garments Jesus had provided.)*

- ❖ What did Jesus tell these believers in Ephesus and Laodicea to do? Revelation 2:5, 3:18-19

*(To those in both churches he told them to repent and this was to be accompanied by a change in their behaviour. Those in Ephesus had to do what they had done when they first turned to Christ and those in Laodicea had to put on clean garments and get their lives right.)*

- ❖ What invitation did Jesus give to those in Ephesus? Revelation 3:20

*(He invited them into fellowship with him – they were to hear his voice and invite him in.)*



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

*(He told the Christians at Ephesus that he would remove their lampstand, and those in Laodicea that he would spew them out of his mouth.)*

- ❖ However if they repented they would receive all that God had prepared for them. What was that? Revelation 2:7, 3:21

*(Jesus promised that if they overcame their slackness and lukewarmness he would give them the right to the tree of life and to sit with him on his throne.)*

## **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