

New Year 2011 – Preparing for revival

God has spoken to us at the beginning of 2010 and told us to prepare for revival. His message still the same – we've moved closer but we're on a journey with further to go.

Although we are called to prepare for revival, revival cannot be engineered by any kind of human effort or activity – it is a sovereign move of God.

The Promise of Revival

Water and rain on dry ground - See Ezek 34:26-27, Isa 35, Isa 44:3-4, Ps 85:5-6.

Holy Spirit poured out on all flesh – Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:17 – the last days

How do we prepare for revival?

- **Our first call is to minister to God in worship and prayer**

“Ask for rain in the time of latter rain” (Zech 10:1)

- **We hunger and thirst**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. (Mt 5:6)

- **We learn how to host the presence of God**

One definition of hell is to sit in an endless church service without the presence of God. (C S Lewis)

The church is running from the presence of the Lord. It is running to activity in place of seeking the Lord's presence. You may call your activity 'ministry', but it is actually running from the presence of the Lord.

(Rick Joyner)

Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here."

(Ex 33:15)

Be prepared to pay the cost – features of revival – the fire of God.

But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness. (Mal 3:2-3)

Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.

(Ps 24:3-4)

The fire of God falls on sacrifice – if we want the fire/presence, we have to become the sacrifice

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Rom 12:1-2)

- **We prepare our hearts**

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Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you. (Hos 10:12)

Fallow ground is ground that has lain dormant for a while (maybe many years) – ground which has become trodden down and hard – ground that is covered in weeds – unfruitful.

ANY AREA WHERE YOUR LIFE IS NOT FULL OF LOVE, JOY, PEACE AND HOPE IS AN INDICATION OF FALLOW GROUND.

Breaking up your fallow ground involves inviting God the Holy Spirit to put his finger on the deep issues of our hearts – exposing our attitudes and our fears – and bringing healing and release. It's something **WE** must do – invite Him in ... Humble yourself... (*Jas 4:10, 1 Pet 5:6*)

Seeking the Lord – prevailing prayer – requires determination, inconvenience, persistence – UNTIL he comes.

- **We live in HOPE**

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Rom 5:1-5)

We walk through trials tribulations and setbacks – why? To ensure that we don't lose hope! Satan's intention is to rob you of hope.

ANY AREA OF YOUR LIFE THAT IS NOT FILLED WITH JOYFUL EXPECTATION INDICATES THAT SATAN HAS ROBBED YOU OF YOUR HOPE.

Three things remain, faith, hope and love (1 Cor 13:13) – always something to look forward to – of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end (Isa 9:7)

David certainly realised the power of this when he was feeling down and discouraged. See Psalm 42.

David had learned the secret of speaking positively to himself – there is great power in doing this.

There are no hopeless situations; there are only people who have grown hopeless about them. (Clare Boothe Luce)

Hope generally involves waiting – it has to do with stuff that God has promised that we've not yet seen the reality of in our lives – but this process of waiting on the Lord, putting our hope in God, puts strength and resolve into us as people and turns us into the kind of people that will rise up on wings like eagles and run and not be weary.

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no-one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in (or "wait on") the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isa 40:28-31)