

America's Last Hope: Revival (July 4th)

"Look at western Europe. Sooner or later, that's where we're headed." Dr. Molly Worthen
Professor of History, UNC-Chapel Hill

"Europeans live in a purely secular political system, where religion does not play any important role."
Former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing

She's right – that is – **UNLESS** God steps in and brings **revival** to America.

A "**revival**" is a powerful moving of the Holy Spirit – that overwhelms entire churches/colleges/cities/even nations and turns them back to God.

A "**revival**" is a **supernatural** event that is not the result of human planning or programming – but the result of **God's sovereign will**.

Arthur Wallis – *In the Day of Thy Power*

"Revival is divine intervention in the normal course of things. It is God revealing Himself in awful holiness and irresistible power."

"In revival, the church is awakened, carnality and worldliness are slain, the lukewarm are made hot, the people of God begin to purify themselves . . . and every segment of society is affected."

Revival is a "**spiritual tsunami**" – leaving in its wake a righteous transformation of society that lasts for decades!

Benjamin Franklin [Regarding Philadelphia] "It was wonderful to see the change soon made in the manner of our inhabitants."

"From being thoughtless or indifferent about religion, it seemed as if the whole world were growing religious, so that one could not walk through the town in the evening without hearing psalms being sung in different families along the way."

"The Great Awakening exerted a force which left the colonies altered forever . . . The civil rights demonstrations, campus disturbances, and urban riots of the 60's **all put together** did not make the impact on our national life that the Great Awakening did." William Dallimore, historian

Revival is a work of the Holy Spirit – but there are **three things** we as followers of Christ must do to prepare the soil.

"If My people, who are called by My name, will (1) **HUMBLE** themselves and (2) **PRAY** and seek My face and (3) **TURN** from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

#1 – "If My people, who are called by My name, will **HUMBLE** themselves . . ."

God will not send revival onto **arrogant soil**.

"'Therefore,' says the LORD, 'turn to Me with all your heart; with fasting, weeping, and mourning; and tear your hearts and not your clothes.'" Joel 2:12

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not **despise.**”
Psalm 51:17

Humility and brokenness over sin are **essential** pre-requisites for revival.

#2 – “[If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves] and **PRAY** and seek My face . . .”

God will not send revival on **prayerless soil.**

The people in Jonathan Edwards’ church prayed constantly for revival for **five years** before George Whitefield showed up in America and the Great-Awakening began.

Revival is “birthed” in prayer!

The greatest sin of the modern church is our **prayerlessness!**

#3 – “[If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face] and **TURN** from their wicked ways . . .”

God sends **revival** onto **unholy societies** – it’s just that He won’t send **revival** onto **unholy churches!**

Robert Murray McCheyne

“The sin of one Achan troubled the whole camp of Israel.”

“If any of you as God’s children willfully continue in some old sin, you will trouble our camp.”

The biggest thing you and I can do [here at McLean Bible Church] to hasten revival is for us to get serious about personal holiness in our lives.

The second greatest sin of the modern church is our **lack of purity!**

There is a price to be paid for revival:

#1 – Humility and brokenness over sin

#2 – Unyielding, prevailing prayer

#3 – Dealing with sin in our lives