

## October 4: Being Revival

*Gather: Bible, pen, paper*

**Introduction:** Last week we did a reflective exercise thinking about the barren times in life and streams we are given. This week we explore revival that comes with those streams and how we can be part of that revival to the people around us.

### Revival

In "The Complete Works of E.M. Bounds on Prayer", we find his words, "All the true revivals have been born in prayer. When God's people become so concerned about the state of religion that they lie on their faces day and night in earnest supplication, the blessing will be sure to fall. It is the same all down the ages. Every revival of which we have any record has been bathed in prayer."

What is your response to this quote?

What are some instances of revival that you can think of? (Biblical examples and/or other times in history) If you can't think of any, ask your family if they can think of any examples.

Here are a few examples below. Take a few minutes to read through a few examples below and note

1. Who was involved
2. Why revival was needed
3. How revival came.

- Jesus: Isaiah 61:1 and his story throughout the Gospels
- 1 Samuel 7
- Acts 2:1-4, 37-47
- Nehemiah 1:5-2:8
- Acts 19:1-7, 18-20
- Acts 16:25-34

### How can we be part of revival?

To individuals around us – how can you be a part of revival to those you encounter? Here are some small ways:

- Be a safe place for people to talk and pour out their hearts.
- Be a person people can go to for prayer.
- Be kind to those that are hard to be kind to.
- Pray for those you don't like.
- Be an example of how God changes lives

We are able to take part in the revival that God is doing, and we can also take part in bringing revival. Here are a few things we can do:

- Take care of our personal relationship with God:
  - Remove the sin that separates us from God, confess our sins and repent.
  - Spend time with Him, learn his heart so: when we pray, we are asking for His will; our faith can grow and doubt can be cast aside, we will be obedient to the Holy Spirit and his leading.

Pause and take a minute to do these things.

- Pray for the revival:
  - Pray for the hearts of people to be prepared, to be receptive to the Gospel, and to see God for who he is (Acts 2:37 and 43)
  - Pray for unity in the body of Christ
  - Pray continually – not just once, but patiently, repetitively, and confidently.
  - Pray with others (as seen in Acts 1:14)

**Reflective Exercise:** Listen and respond to the song *Revival* by Stars Go Dim.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=2&v=XhQjYbK9mAs&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=XhQjYbK9mAs&feature=emb_logo)

**Memory Verse:** Isaiah 43:20-21 "The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise."

**Prayer:** Pray silently for revival and that you can be a part of the revival that God brings. Then spend time praying with a friend, sibling, parent or group of people for revival.

**Challenge:** Pick one of the below passages or quotes to reflect on each day this week!

E. M. Bounds (from the book "The Complete Works of E. M. Bounds on Prayer"):

"All the true revivals have been born in prayer. When God's people become so concerned about the state of religion that they lie on their faces day and night in earnest supplication, the blessing will be sure to fall. It is the same all down the ages. Every revival of which we have any record has been bathed in prayer."

Isaiah 64:1-3

James 5:16

Habakkuk 3:2

Hosea 6:1-3

Andrew Murray from his book "Revival":

"If revival is to come — greater, deeper, broader than any that has yet been — one great part of its powers will be in the conviction it will bring. Many of us will be convicted of the sin and shame of all the carnal ease, and comfort, and self-indulgence in which we have been living — while the dying, perishing world that has been given into our charge was waiting for us, and the infinite love that had entrusted self to us was mourning that we were too slow to go and tell of it. The conviction of sin must be greater, deeper, broader than we have known it. Judgment will have to begin at the house of God. The great deep will have to be broken up. The formality and the worldliness, the selfishness and self-confidence, and the self-complacency of much of our Christianity will have to be revealed in the light of the actual life, worship, devotion, and self-sacrifice in the power of the Spirit to which God has called us."