

I. A DYING EMBER

- A. Imagine looking into a fireplace the morning after a fire. At first, everything appears dead, nothing but gray ashes. But if you move the ashes aside, you may discover a small ember still glowing underneath. Add fresh wood and oxygen, and suddenly what looked dead begins to burn again. That is a picture of personal revival. Revival is God breathing upon what has grown cold, awakening our hearts, restoring our first love, and causing the fire to burn again.
- B. There is a beautiful promise in Scripture concerning what Jesus desires and is committed to do in our hearts: to heal what is broken, restore what has grown cold, and cause our hearts to burn with love and passion for Him.

1. ***A bruised reed He will not break, And ^{1b}smoking flax He will not quench; (NKJ).....He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle.-Is 42:3 (NLT)***
2. ***For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns.-Is 62:1***

II. THE FLAME OF OUR HEARTS CAN GROW DIM

1. ***Where there is no wood, the fire goes out;-Prov 26:20***
2. ***There are three things that are never satisfied, Four never say, "Enough!"¹⁶ The grave, The barren womb, The earth that is not satisfied with water—And the fire never says, "Enough!" -Prov 30:15-16***

- B. The flame in our hearts can be extinguished without us even realizing it. It happens over time when we neglect the flame that is meant to burn continually.

1. ***A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.-Lev 6:13***

- C. When we stop feeding that fire, our hearts grow cold, numb, hard, and indifferent. **But a dying ember does not have to become a dead fire.**

III. HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU NEED PERSONAL REVIVAL?

- A. Biblically, a Christian in need of personal revival is not necessarily someone who has abandoned the faith. Often, it is a believer whose spiritual life has gradually grown cold, distracted, dry, or complacent.
- B. Here are some of the symptoms of a person who needs revival:
 - 1. Loss of first love for Jesus
 - a) You still believe and serve, but your affection for Christ has diminished.
 - 2. Loss of hunger for God's Word
 - a) Scripture becomes something you know you should read rather than something your soul desires.
 - 3. Weak or neglected prayer life
 - a) Communion with God becomes irregular, mechanical, or primarily crisis-driven.
 - 4. Tolerance of sin and compromise
 - a) Things that once troubled your conscience no longer bother you as much
 - 5. Spiritual complacency
 - a) You become satisfied with where you are spiritually, and stop pressing toward greater maturity.
 - 6. Going through the motions
 - a) Worship, church, ministry, and prayer continue outwardly, but inward affection has weakened. Jesus warned of people who honor God with their lips while their hearts are far from Him (Matthew 15:8).
 - 7. Loss of sensitivity to the Holy Spirit
 - a) Conviction becomes easier to ignore and obedience is delayed.

8. Decreased desire for holiness

- a) Instead of asking, “How can I please Jesus?” the question gradually becomes, “How much can I get away with?”

9. Indifference and loss of burden for the lost

- a) The eternal things we once were excited about are replaced with earthly ones. There is little concern for people who do not know Christ. Hell loses its sting!

10. Stop living with expectation

- a) Faith becomes routine, with little hunger for God’s presence, and the holy adventure becomes a boring adventure.

11. Increased attraction to the world

- a) Entertainment, possessions, success, comfort, or approval increasingly occupy the affection that belongs to God. We begin to applaud what the world applauds.

12. Loss of spiritual joy

- a) Serving God becomes primarily a duty rather than delight.

IV. **THE WELSH REVIVAL OF 1904**

- 1. “Every corporate revival begins with personal revival.” “God often begins His greatest movements by setting one heart on fire.”

B. A famous story about this truth is associated with British evangelist Gypsy Smith. When asked how to start a revival, he is commonly reported to have advised someone to go home, draw a circle around himself, kneel inside it, and pray: “Lord, send revival inside this circle.”

C. One of the greatest examples of this in modern history took place in 1904 Wales. God sparked a powerful revival in a geographical region, but only after sparking one in a human heart.

D. A young man named Evan Roberts heard a man cry out at a meeting “bend the church and save the world”. Evan Roberts was gripped with that statement and went home and cried out that God would “bend him and save the world”.

- E. The next day the young freshly lit Evan Roberts brought what happened in his heart to the church prayer meeting which ignited one of the most influential revivals in history.
- F. This revival was one of the shortest revivals but one of the most impactful. The revival lasted less than a year but over 100,000 people were saved in a small geographical location. The revival was known and characterized by extended prayer, spontaneous singing, testimony, confession of sin, repentance, and appeals for people to surrender completely to Christ.

V. HOW DO WE EXPERIENCE PERSONAL REVIVAL?

- A. That answer comes directly from Jesus in one of His letters He wrote to the churches in Revelation 2:1-7.
- B. Jesus commended the church of Ephesus for its hard work, perseverance, doctrinal discernment, and refusal to tolerate false teachers. Outwardly, they were doing many things right, but were unaware of their true spiritual condition.
- C. Jesus identified one serious problem:
 - 1. ***“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.” — Revelation 2:4***
- D. Jesus gives them instruction on how to awaken the spark again.
 - 1. ***5Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first work.***

VI. FIVE KEYS TO EXPERIENCE PERSONAL REVIVAL

1. IT STARTS WITH GOD AS A WORK OF GRACE

- a) God's grace and mercy opens our eyes to see what we could not see before

(1) ***8And now for a little while grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage. -Ezra 9:8***

2. WE MUST HUMBLE OURSELVES AND RECOGNIZE WE NEED IT

- a) A revived heart stops defending itself and becomes poor in spirit.

(1) ***"For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity... 'I dwell... with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble." – Isaiah 57:15***

(2) ***"Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. -Mt 5:3***

- b) The difference between the poor in spirit compared to the lukewarm believer is how they respond to their spiritual condition. The lukewarm believer remains prideful and deceived about their condition, while the poor in spirit recognizes their need, mourns over it, and desperately turns to God.
- c) One of the best ways to humble ourselves regularly is through weekly fasting. God will always fill an empty heart through an empty stomach (voluntary fasting)

3. WE MUST REPENT AND FULLY SURRENDER AGAIN

- a) We must come into agreement with what God shows us about our true spiritual condition, and respond to God's grace and mercy in repentance.

(1) ***Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, -Acts 3:19***

- (a) Revival isn't merely feeling bad about where you are; it's turning from what caused you to get there.

4. WE MUST RADICALLY REORDER OUR TIME

- a) Personal revival is deeply connected to how we spend our time because our spiritual appetites are shaped by what consistently receives our attention. Time reveals what we value.
- b) **We can't have a revived heart until we have a revived schedule.** Prioritize seeking God again.

***(1) When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You,
"Your face, LORD, I will seek."-Ps 27:8***

5. WE MUST RETURN TO GOD'S WORD AND PRAYER

- a) God's word to a cold heart is what jumper cables are to a dead battery.

***(1) My soul clings to the dust; Revive me according
to Your word.-Ps 119:25***

***(2) "Revive us, and we will call upon Your
name."-Psalm 80:18***