

Preaching FOR Revival

by Evangelist Billy Ingram

Revival never occurs by accident or is stumbled upon by sheer coincidence. Certain elements always accompany the visitation of revival and are essential to its occurrences in the future. Therefore, every God ordained preacher ought never settle with preaching *about* revival but preaching *for* revival that calls for God's people to seek Him!

Preaching is often expressed as a confrontation of truth that requires a decision. - - **Revival** is a restoration of the believer to the leadership of the Holy Spirit (which is normal Christianity).—Therefore, **Preaching For Revival** is a confrontation of revival truth that demands a biblical response.

This type of preaching ought to be pointed (*confronting* the will of the hearer), powerful (relying upon the *convicting* power of the Word and the Spirit) and passionate (due to personal *convincement* concerning truth). - - This is the type of call to revival we find among the prophets of the Old Testament and the Spirit filled preachers of the New. It is not surprising to discover how replete revival history is with preachers who expect God to honor His word and send revival; thereby confronting the will of the believer to prepare and seek Him for it! - - This kind of preaching is not focused on sheer discipline in the believer that simply *does better* but calls for an absolute surrender and dependence upon the Spirit's power for His enablement. All flesh dependence is exposed by preaching for revival in order that necessary cleansing and restoration can occur.

I was on a Bible college campus where a group of students signed and distributed a *Declaration* stating their intent to take a stand **against** the “*get right with God*” preaching, reasoning that, *they were made right with God the day they were saved and will never be more right with God*. Unfortunately, these students misunderstood at least two key elements of the Christian life: the distinction between positional and progressive sanctification, and the role of revival preaching, which God has ordained (which is *get right with God* preaching).

Where preaching *for* revival is neglected, no matter how “spiritual” the reason, dangerous excess and error will be lurking. Since preaching for revival was preeminent in the Old and New Testament the church in any age dare not depart from the same model and mandate.

Some pulpits overflow with vast oratories *concerning* revival while sorely lacking the call *to* revival. Mere preaching *about* revival may only inspire and motivate. Such was not the case, however, with Elijah in I Kings 18. Interestingly, the *Carmel Conference* did not have as its primary emphasis, *exposition* of the Law; instead, Elijah *implemented* by faith the promises contained in the Law and confronted the people of God with an ultimatum. He then called upon God to awaken His people.

When the focus is solely upon orthodoxy instead of also upon Omnipotence, one can anticipate sterilization and pragmatism. The problem assuredly is never orthodoxy, but the absence of God's power, which culminates in *dead* orthodoxy. Teaching how to parse and exegete surely has its place and profit but only to the extent, that God's power is obtained for prayer and evangelization.

Preaching *for* revival is risky preaching. Revivalists however are unafraid, urgent ambassadors convinced of God's readiness to revive and disinclined to preach anything less than *for* its fulfillment.

Preach *For* Revival!