

Main Idea: As we look at the revival that took place in 2 Chronicles 29 under the leadership of Hezekiah we discover a revival that was accompanied by five marks. If we’re serious about experiencing the Spirit’s reviving work in our midst, we can anticipate the same five things.

- I. Revival involves repentance (3-9).
 - Repentance is the Spirit-generated response that occurs in my heart so that I determine that things need to change.*
 - God’s people need to come to grips with the stench of sin in their own lives, and repent of it, just like Hezekiah did.*
 - II. Revival involves rededication (10-19).
 - The Levites could be of no help to others until they had taken care of their own sin.*
 - Revival occurs when God’s people get serious about obeying and living by God’s Word.*
 - There can be no acceptable worship of God without cleansing first.*
 - III. Revival involves reconciliation (20-24).
 - Blood has to be shed if unholy people are to be reconciled with a holy God.*
 - IV. Revival involves the recovery of true worship (25-35).
 - There can be no real worship until we confess our sin and are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.*
 - V. Revival involves rejoicing (36).
 - Revival comes from God alone, as does every other blessing we enjoy, for He is sovereign.*
- A Concluding Challenge: Some Questions to Consider
1. Are you in a right relationship with God?
 2. Has your heart been cold towards God and the things of God?
 3. Do you have areas of sin in your temple that need to be removed?

We’re going to talk about a subject this month that I think is vital and timely. The subject is *revival*. And I want you to know right up front what we’re after. It’s not just information. It’s revival itself.

To be transparent, I need it. What’s more, I think this church needs it. Beyond that, the churches in the Tri-State need it. The churches in America need it. We need revival.

But what is revival? How does it happen? And what happens once revival happens? Those are important questions, and to answer them we’re going to open our Bibles to look for examples of revival.

To begin, I want to go to more recent history and give you an example of revival. Let’s go to the late 1700s. If you are concerned about what’s happening in America today, and there is reason to be, know this. It’s not the first time we’ve been where we are.

Morality was at an all time low during the 1790's. Great colleges that were once places of training for those entering ministry were hotbeds of spiritual corruption. During the last half of the 18th century, the typical Harvard student was atheist. Students at Williams College conducted a mock celebration of Holy Communion. When the dean at Princeton opened the chapel Bible to read, a pack of playing cards fell out, some radical having cut a rectangle out of each page to fit the pack. Christians were so unpopular on the college campuses that they met in secret and kept their minutes in code! A radical leader of Deist students led a mob in burning the Bible. Students disrupted church worship services with profanity. They burned down buildings. They forced the resignation of college presidents.

J. Edwin Orr, in his book, *Campus Aflame*, draws this conclusion, "The last two decades of the 18th century were the darkest period, spiritually and morally, in the history

** Note: This is an unedited manuscript of a message preached at Wheelersburg Baptist Church. It is provided to prompt your continued reflection on the practical truths of the Word of God.

of American Christianity, the low-water mark of its lowest ebb-tide, when infidelity rode roughshod over the feelings of the disoriented majority."¹

Chief Justice Marshall wrote to Bishop Madison of Virginia and declared that the Church was too far gone ever to be redeemed.²

So things were bleak in America. Then something dramatic happened. Perhaps out of despair or out of hope, a group of New England men put out a call for a nationwide "Concert of Prayer." The purpose? To plead with the Almighty to intervene in the sad state of affairs in America.

What happened? Revival took place. Not just in New England, but in the Maritime provinces of Canada, throughout the Middle Atlantic States, across the south, and even to the Midwest. What happened is what we now know as "The Second Great Awakening of American History."

What is revival? Do we need revival today? If revival were to happen in our midst, what would it look like?

Here's a problem. There is great misunderstanding about what biblical revival truly is. Can we produce revival? If we put a sign out in front of this church this morning that read, "Revival in Progress," would it happen? What are the marks of true, biblical revival?

With those questions in mind, we must turn to God's Word. We must allow God to tell us through His Word what revival is. After all, revival comes from Him.

This morning we are beginning a series for the month of August called "*Revive Us Again!*"³ We're going to look at several accounts of genuine revival recorded in the pages of Scripture. On Sunday mornings we'll learn about revival. On Sunday evenings, we're going to discuss the implications of what we learned in the morning sermon and then pray for revival.

Just what are the marks of genuine, biblical revival? We find the answer when we open our Bibles to 2 Chronicles 29 and look at the revival that occurred under the leadership of King Hezekiah. We see five marks that characterize the revival of God's people that occurred in Hezekiah's day. They are:

1. Repentance (3-9)
2. Rededication (10-19)
3. Reconciliation (20-24)
4. Recovery of true worship (25-35)
5. Rejoicing (36)

The Backdrop for the Story--The Book of 2 Chronicles⁴:

¹ *Campus Aflame*, by J. Edwin Orr, p. 19.

² Orr, p. 20. Here's how Lyman Beecher and Timothy Dwight described the moral climate in our country at the end of the 18th century. "College was in a most ungodly state. The college church was almost extinct. Most of the students were skeptical and rowdies were plenty. Wine and liquors were kept in many rooms; intemperance, profanity, gambling and licentiousness were common. . . most of the class before me were infidels and called each other Voltaire, Rousseau, . . . etc." Here's another: "Youths particularly who had been liberally educated, and who with strong passions and feeble principles, were the votaries of sensuality and ambition, delighted in the prospect of unrestrained gratification, and, panting to be enrolled with men of passion and splendor, became enamored with the new doctrines."

³ We did a similar series in 2000 on Sunday evenings at WBC.

⁴ 2 Chronicles is the last book of Hebrew Bible. Many think Ezra wrote it in the 5th century BC, but the text doesn't say. The Chronicles are parallel to 1 & 2 Kings. Keep this in mind. 2 Chronicles is a history

We're given the setting for the revival in 2 Chronicles 29:1: "Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah."

Hezekiah was king of Judah and he began his reign in the year 715 BC. He would eventually reign 29 years, and would go down in the annals of history as one of Judah's greatest kings.

But you need to know that things were certainly bleak when he took the helm. The eighth century B.C. was a significant time in the history of God's people Israel. There was lots of revelation given (with prophets like Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, and Jonah).

There was also a political vacuum in Middle East. By the middle of the eighth century, there was no great political rival to threaten Israel and Judah. It was a time of great economic prosperity. Unfortunately that led to great pride, idolatry, and spiritual prostitution for both Israel and Judah

So things were tough when Hezekiah became king of Judah--economically, politically, and spiritually. The mighty Assyrians were breathing down his neck. Just seven years earlier (722 B.C.), the Assyrians plundered and raped the land of Israel and demolished the northern kingdom. Now Judah was next.

But even worse than the bleak political climate was the bleak spiritual climate. Hezekiah's father, Ahaz, was one of the most spiritually hardened kings ever to reign over God's people. According to 2 Chronicles 28:1, Ahaz did *not* do what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Instead he cast idols for the worship of Baal (2-3), and he actually shut the doors of the Lord's temple (24)!

That was the setting when Hezekiah took over, bleak, for sure. Yet it was also a setting that was ripe for revival!

Hezekiah was not like his father, as 2 Chronicles 29:2 makes clear, "He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done." No, Hezekiah didn't produce the revival we're about to see, for revival is always the result of God's sovereign work. But the Lord used this man of God to create an environment conducive to revival, and there's much we can learn from him.

Now, let's look at the five marks of genuine revival. Here's the first.

I. Revival involves repentance (3-9).

Hezekiah wasted no time. What was his first major task as king? Verse 3 says, "In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the LORD and repaired them."

Think of the significance of that action. What was God's house? It's the temple that Solomon had built, and he built it according to God's instruction. God's house was the place of worship for God's people. God's house was the place of sacrifice for the sins of God's people. But there had been no worship there, no acceptable sacrifice there, for decades! In fact, verse 3 makes it clear, the people had so neglected God's house that the doors didn't even work!

Brothers and sisters, revival begins right here, with *repentance*. *Repentance is the Spirit-generated response that occurs in my heart so that I determine that things need to change.* My thinking about and attitude towards God need to change. The place I give to His Son, Jesus Christ, needs to change. My life needs to change.

book, yes, but it's more than that. It's theological history. It's the telling of historical events with the purpose of teaching us something about God and ourselves.

Hezekiah saw the need for change. Listen. It took courage for him to institute this change. He had to abandon the course set by his own father! He had to admit, "We've been wrong! We've not been giving the true God the place He deserves in our lives!"

How did Hezekiah bring about the needed change? He began by getting the God-ordained leaders involved. Verse 4 says, "He brought in the priests and Levites." And what did he tell them? Verse 5 says, "Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD, the God of your fathers. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary."

Watch this. Hezekiah was not afraid to break tradition and call sin what it is! And keep in mind he is a 25-year-old young man. I was 26 when I became the pastor of this church, which was 110 years old at the time and traditions firmly in place. Standing up to tradition is no easy thing for a young leader, and yet when the tradition stands in the way of obedience to God's Word, the leader must take a stand.

Listen to Hezekiah's words in verses 6-7, "Our fathers were unfaithful; they did evil in the eyes of the LORD our God and forsook him. They turned their faces away from the LORD's dwelling place and turned their backs on him. They also shut the doors of the portico and put out the lamps. They did not burn incense or present any burnt offerings at the sanctuary to the God of Israel."

Then, in verses 8-9, Hezekiah gave the leaders *reasons* why repentance was needed. "Therefore, the anger of the LORD has fallen on Judah and Jerusalem; he has made them an object of dread and horror and scorn, as you can see with your own eyes. This is why our fathers have fallen by the sword and why our sons and daughters and our wives are in captivity."

You can read about the event Hezekiah had in mind in 2 Chronicles 28:5-8. There King Ahaz trusted in his own ingenuity and instead of trusting God, he asked Assyria for help when Syria attacked. But Hezekiah recognized the folly of that. No more trusting men. It's time to turn to God.

If revival is ever to occur, God's people need to repent.

You say, "Wait a minute. You said 'God's people' need to repent. Don't you mean 'unsaved people' need to repent?" No, you heard me correctly. Yes, unsaved people need to repent, that's true. But we're talking about *revival*. Revival is the reviving of *God's* people. *God's people need to come to grips with the stench of sin in their own lives, and repent of it, just like Hezekiah did.*

Is there anything in your life right now that's not pleasing to the Lord? Which of us can honestly say no to that question? I know God has been dealing with me recently about things He's wanting to change, and I'm learning that change begins with the admission that it's needed. So what about you? What's in your life that He wants to change? For Hezekiah, the temple doors were shut. What have you shut that needs to open? Your Bible? Your heart towards a brother? Your willingness to serve? Your wallet for God's work? Where is repentance needed in your life today?

You say, "But I've got questions." That's okay. God has answers. But answer this. Is God putting His finger on something that needs to change, and you know it? Then deal with whatever that is. Don't delay. He won't give you more light until you do something with the light He's already given.

The first mark of genuine revival is repentance. Here's the second...

II. Revival involves rededication (10-19).

Notice what Hezekiah said to the priests and Levites in verse 10, "Now I intend to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger will turn away from us."

Watch carefully. Where did the revival begin? The KJV of verse 10 reads, "It is in my heart to make a covenant with the LORD God." When you study the great revivals of church history, you'll find this trait. It often starts with a godly leader (not necessarily a preacher either!) in whose heart God was working. Then it spread to others.

Hezekiah meant business. He purposed to renew the covenant God had established. A covenant is a binding promise, and oath, a commitment. Hezekiah knew that his people were the people of God's covenant. But they hadn't been living like it. They needed to rededicate themselves to the Lord.

First Hezekiah rededicated himself. Then he challenged the other leaders to do the same in verse 11, "My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before him and serve him, to minister before him and to burn incense."

Did the leaders accept Hezekiah's challenge? Yes, they did! Verse 12 says, "Then these Levites [they were Israel's worship leaders] set to work...." You'll notice their names listed in verses 12-14. Mahath. Kish. Azariah. Joah. Eden. Etc.

What's the purpose of inserting those names? We don't even know who they are. Listen. Revival happens when real people do real things to show they are really serious about getting back to life by the Book.

And what did these leaders do? Verse 15 tells us, "When they had assembled their brothers and consecrated themselves, they went in to purify the temple of the LORD, as the king had ordered, following the word of the LORD."

That's so significant. *The Levites could be of no help to others until they had taken care of their own sin.* They "consecrated [sanctified, KJV] themselves" first. And they did it according to what authority? What authority brings about real change? Verse 15b says, "As the king had ordered, following the word of the LORD."

This is key. When genuine revival occurs, it produces a proper response to God's Word. It happens in your own life, and then you do everything in your power to see it happen in the lives of those in your sphere of influence.

That's what happened next. What did the priests and Levites do? They conducted a major housecleaning job. Where? In God's house.

Here's how they did it. Notice verses 16-17, "The priests went into the sanctuary of the LORD to purify it. They brought out to the courtyard of the LORD's temple everything unclean that they found in the temple of the LORD. The Levites took it and carried it out to the Kidron Valley. They began the consecration on the first day of the first month, and by the eighth day of the month they reached the portico of the LORD. For eight more days they consecrated the temple of the LORD itself, finishing on the sixteenth day of the first month."

What's going on here? Hezekiah, the priests, and the Levites are obeying what God said in Deuteronomy 12:2-4. They're taking seriously God's charge to get rid of idols and false worship. That's critical. *Revival occurs when God's people get serious about obeying and living by God's Word.*

The leaders took seven days to clean up the outside and seven days to clean up the inside of the temple. The problem was not just dirt and rubbish. The problem was sin. King Ahaz had brought all kinds of filthy idolatries into the temple. Forbidden,

unacceptable, pagan images and relics. All that spiritual trash had to go. So the Levites carried it to the Kidron Valley, east of the temple.⁵

What do you have in your house and life that needs to go? There's an important lesson here. *There can be no acceptable worship of God without cleansing first.* Hezekiah knew that. The temple had to be cleaned up before the people could worship. Sin had to go.

And where is God's temple today? We are God's temple, aren't we? God doesn't dwell in buildings, but in people who have received Jesus Christ into their lives (see 1 Cor 6:19-20).

This is one of the main reasons we need revival today. The problem is the same as in Hezekiah's day. God's temple is polluted with sin. Again, I ask. Is there any tolerated and perhaps hidden sin in your life?

One of the most memorable chapels I experienced during my time as a Resident Director at a Christian College occurred when one chapel speaker talked about Achan's sin. Remember Achan? He's the one who, in disobedience to God, took some of the plunder at Jericho and hid it in his tent. His sin cost the whole congregation, not to mention it cost Achan his life. The remedy was to get rid of the hidden sin.

The speaker asked the students, "Do you have any hidden sins in your life that need to be removed? Let's deal with it now." And students did. They confessed to the Lord the ungodly things in their hearts and lives that needed to go. And some of them even went back to their rooms and got rid of ungodly things that needed to go from there.

Is that all that needs to happen to please God, just get rid of sin? No. It's just the beginning, for growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ is a life-long process. But you won't even begin to grow while the temple is polluted.

So where are you today? Is the temple of God in need of housecleaning? Then let's get to it, like the leaders did here. In verses 18-19, the leaders reported back to Hezekiah that the job was done. "We have purified the entire temple of the LORD, the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the table for setting out the consecrated bread, with all its articles. We have prepared and consecrated all the articles that King Ahaz removed in his unfaithfulness while he was king. They are now in front of the LORD's altar."

What are the marks of genuine, biblical revival? Repentance, rededication, and...

III. Revival involves reconciliation (20-24).

What happened after the temple was cleansed? According to verse 20, "Early the next morning King Hezekiah gathered the city officials together and went up to the temple of the LORD."

Then what happened? The priests sacrificed twenty-eight animals, according to verse 21. "They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven male lambs and seven male goats as a sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary and for Judah. The king commanded the priests, the descendants of Aaron, to offer these on the altar of the LORD."

Why all the animals? As a "sin offering," says the text. And what did they do with the blood each time? Verse 22 says, "So they slaughtered the bulls, and the priests took the blood and sprinkled it on the altar; next they slaughtered the rams and sprinkled their blood on the altar; then they slaughtered the lambs and sprinkled their blood on the altar."

That's key. Four times we're told they "sprinkled it on the altar." And of course, the "altar" was the place of sacrifice in the temple, not the front of a church sanctuary. The people had sinned, and this blood is God's ordained way of covering that sin.

⁵By the way, this is the same place Asa had burned his grandmother's Ashura object fifty years earlier.

Notice the reason given for these sacrifices in verse 24, "The priests then slaughtered the goats and presented their blood on the altar for a sin offering to atone for all Israel, because the king had ordered the burnt offering and the sin offering for all Israel."

Friends, never forget that God is a holy God. He cannot tolerate sin. In His grace He provided a way for sin to be covered. That's what atonement means. Sin can be atoned for, and only blood can do that (Lev 17:11). In Hezekiah's day, that meant animals needed to be killed, and their blood sprinkled on the altar in the Temple. Blood sacrifice is what makes reconciliation possible.

Blood has to be shed if unholy people are to be reconciled with a Holy God. That's what "atone" means, literally, "a making at one." When people are not on good terms, they are not one but divided. That's the sinner's problem. He is not one with God but cut off from Him. He needs to be reconciled, and God's provision for that is atonement.

Friends, this reality has not changed. No, we don't need to slaughter lambs to be reconciled with God because *the* Lamb of God was slain. He shed His precious blood on the altar of a wooden cross.

Mark 10:45 records, "For the Son of man came. . . to give His life a ransom for many." (see also Rom 3:23-25)

Perhaps you're wondering, "How can I be right with God?" The answer is this. Look to the Lamb of God! In the words of the hymnwriter, "Look to the Lamb of God, for He alone is able to save you."

Friends, repentance, though vital, isn't enough. It's not enough to turn from sin. You must turn to Christ who alone can rescue you from your sin and reconcile you to a right standing with God. You must look to Jesus Christ and put your trust in the atonement He provided through His death on the cross and His triumphant resurrection.

Now watch what happens next as the revival spreads. It started with Hezekiah and then moved to the leaders. Then it spilled over into the rest of the people. That brings us to the fourth mark. Repentance, rededication, reconciliation, and...

IV. Revival involves the recovery of true worship (25-35).

What did Hezekiah ask the Levites to do next? Listen to verses 25-27, "He stationed the Levites in the temple of the LORD with cymbals, harps and lyres in the way prescribed by David and Gad the king's seer and Nathan the prophet; this was commanded by the LORD through his prophets. So the Levites stood ready with David's instruments, and the priests with their trumpets. Hezekiah gave the order to sacrifice the burnt offering on the altar. As the offering began, singing to the LORD began also, accompanied by trumpets and the instruments of David king of Israel."

Again, why did they do this? Because "this was commanded by the LORD through his prophets (25)." The Levites were the worship leaders, the ones responsible for the temple (Num 18).

Watch what happened next. Verse 28 says, "The whole assembly bowed in worship, while the singers sang and the trumpeters played. All this continued until the sacrifice of the burnt offering was completed." And notice the effect in verse 29, "When the offerings were finished, the king and everyone present with him knelt down and worshiped."

Wow! This is so beautiful. Here we see the recovery of true worship by God's people. The people had not worshiped God acceptably for years, but now they are.

I want you to see what was involved in their worship:

*God honoring music of praise (30a)

*Humility--"they bowed their heads (30b)"

*Consecration of their lives to God--"You have now dedicated yourselves to the LORD (31)."

Don't miss something. The order is very important. First, repentance, then rededication, then reconciliation, then the recovery of worship. *There can be no real worship until we confess our sin and are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.*

This is remarkable. An entire nation is worshipping God! It all began with one man, Hezekiah. What the Spirit of God began in Hezekiah spread to the leaders and then filtered down to the rest of the congregation, and in the end a nation is worshipping God.

It began with one young man. Sadly, I must say this, too. As history verifies, it takes only one person to hinder revival. Listen to the account of what happened in Korea in January 1907:

It had now come to the first week of January 1907. All expected that God would signally bless them during the week of universal prayer. But they came to the last day, the eighth day, and yet there was no special manifestation of the power of God. That Sabbath evening about fifteen hundred people were assembled in the Central Presbyterian Church. The heavens over them seemed as brass. Was it possible that God was going to deny them the prayed for outpouring? Then all were startled as Elder Keel, the leading man in the church, stood up and said, 'I am Achan. God cannot bless because of me. About a year ago a friend of mine, when dying, called me to his house and said, "Elder, I am about to pass away; I want you to manage my affairs; my wife is unable." I said, "Rest your heart; I will do it." I did manage that widow's estate, but I managed to put one hundred dollars into my own pocket. I have hindered God, and I am going to give that one hundred dollars back to the widow tomorrow morning.'

Instantly, it was realized that the barriers had fallen, and that God, the Holy One, had come. Conviction of sin swept the audience. The service commenced at seven o'clock Sunday evening and did not end until two o'clock Monday morning, yet during all that time dozens were standing, weeping, awaiting their turn to confess. Day after day the people assembled now, and always it was manifest that the Refiner was in His temple.... [Sin] hindered the Almighty God while it remained covered and it glorified Him as it was uncovered; and so with rare emotions did all the confessions in Korea that year.⁶

Think of what we have just seen. Here are the marks of genuine, biblical revival. Repentance. Rededication. Reconciliation. Recovery of worship. Revival is the work of the Holy Spirit alone. We cannot produce it. But when He does, these are the visible manifestations of it. People repent and get rid of sin. They turn to God and rededicate themselves to Him. They experience reconciliation with Him by affirming their trust in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in His atoning work for them. Consequently, they begin to worship Him in very tangible ways, by singing to Him, by bringing offerings to Him, by dedicating their lives to Him alone.

And what's the result of all this? Something very beautiful...

V. Revival involves rejoicing (36).

Verse 36 offers this conclusion, "Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for his people, because it was done so quickly."

⁶Goforth, 1943:8, in Donald McGavran, *Understanding Church Growth*, pp. 190-1.

What a day! The people of God experienced real revival. They acknowledged and got rid of their sin. They rededicated their lives to God. They experienced reconciliation with God. They recovered the awesome experience of proper worship. And verse 36 sums it all up. They *rejoiced!*

And why did they rejoice? Don't miss this. Did revival take place in Hezekiah's day? Yes. But why? Was it because Hezekiah was such a great leader? No. Was it because the priests and Levites did such a good job in cleaning up the House of God? No. Was it because they impressed God with the right number of offerings? No. Or because they forced God to bless them with their beautiful music? No.

Why did revival take place in Hezekiah's day? The answer, according to verse 36, is that *God brought it about.*⁷

Know this. *Revival comes from God alone, as does every other blessing we enjoy, for He is sovereign.* You say, "Well does God hold me responsible to deal with the sin in my life today, and commit my life to Him, and get serious about living for Him?" The answer is, He sure does. And if you do, you will praise Him for His sovereign grace that gave you a heart to do so.⁸

A Concluding Challenge: Some Questions to Consider

We stand in need of revival today. We need to take heed to the example of Hezekiah and experience what he experienced. We need to experience repentance, rededication, reconciliation, recovery of worship, and rejoicing. That's genuine revival.

To help you as we ponder our need, prayerfully consider these questions...

1. *Are you in a right relationship with God?* Is He your Father, and are you sure He is? That's what it means to be in a *right* relationship with God, to be His child. The truth is, we enter the world *not* in a right relationship with Him. We are *not* His children, but the children of the devil.

Do you need and want to be experience a right relationship with God? If so, I want to invite you to acknowledge it to God right now. He sent His Son, Jesus, to reconcile sinners like us to Himself so we could become His children. That's what every sinner needs, to know the Savior. Put your trust in Jesus, my non-Christian friend, and God will give you immediately a right relationship with Himself.

Now a question for you, my Christian friend...

2. *Has your heart been cold towards God and the things of God?* Friends, how is that we can get so excited about our vacations and our Ipads and our cars (I mention those things because those are the things I've been talking a lot about recently—how about you?), and yet, not be excited about God and things of God? When was the last time you talked to someone about Christ, I mean, with enthusiasm, and prayed for that person with passion and zeal? When did you last invite someone to your church, again, with enthusiasm, because you are so excited about what you are learning about the Lord, and you want them to experience it with you?

Friends, if our hearts have grown cold, let's admit it. And let's ask the God of grace to light a fire in us. And let's get close to the source of the fire so that its flames might rekindle the coldness we're feeling. Finally, one more question...

⁷ As the KJV puts it, "God had prepared the people."

⁸ Another example is Elijah's prayer on Mt Carmel in the great showdown with Baal. Elijah prayed this in 1 Kings 18:37, "Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that Thou art the Lord God, and that Thou hast turned their heart back again."

3. *Do you have areas of sin in your temple that need to be removed?* What needs to go? You know what it is. Will there be other steps to follow to be God's kind of person? Yes, but take the first one. You can't worship God when there's sin in His temple. Ask for help, like Hezekiah did. And by God's grace and for the glory of Christ, clean up the temple.