

Main Idea: When it comes to revival, we can't live in the past. We can't stockpile God's blessings. The time for revival may come again and again, since we are prone to wander. This is illustrated for us in 2 Chronicles 34 where we see six activities involved in Josiah's revival.

I. He removed sin (3-7).

--If you want to experience revival in your life, sin has to go. That may take drastic action.

II. He repaired the temple (8-13).

--We are in trouble when our concerns take first place, and God's concerns second.

III. He recovered God's Law (14-18).

--God's Word is more available to us in America than to any people that have ever lived.

IV. He responded with obedience (19-21).

--God is a jealous God. He won't play second fiddle in the lives of His people.

V. He received God's favor (22-28).

--God is merciful to undeserving sinners if they will humble themselves before Him.

VI. He renewed the covenant (29-33).

--Revival historically has often involved three key ingredients: a godly leader, the Word, and prayer.

Application: To experience genuine revival, two things must happen *in your heart*...

1. You repent of your sins.
2. You place your trust and confidence in Jesus Christ.

Several years ago Jim Cymbala spoke to more than 9,000 participants at the Texas Baptist Evangelism Conference at the Fort Worth Convention center. Cymbala serves as pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle, a multiracial and multi-cultural congregation in the heart of New York City. Cymbala told his audience that Christianity does not need better church growth methods or more political clout in Washington, but a true Holy Ghost revival. Here are his words¹:

"Christianity is hopeless without the Holy Ghost. You can give people the words, but unless you are anointed by the power of the Holy Spirit, they are powerless."

"If doctrinal sermons were all that was needed, we would have won the entire world by now, but we need the Holy Spirit. Revival will not happen by doing methods or programs. We need an invasion from heaven; we need the power and blessing and anointing of the Holy Spirit on our churches and our work."

On the issue of the Holy Spirit, Cymbala said Christendom is divided today, and "the devil is playing both sides."

"On one side, people are doing so many weird things that are not in the Bible and blaming it on the Holy Spirit. They are jerking, twitching, roaring like lions, tweeting like birds, acting like animals. Very few people in those churches have the guts to say, 'Stop! Wait a minute! That is not in the Bible. Can you imagine Jesus doing that, or Paul doing that?'"

"These people are adding to the Word of God. They say He is doing a new thing, so new that it is not even in the Bible. If it is a new thing, I want to see the people in church, souls being won, people seeking the Lord.

"On the other side are those who have tossed the Spirit out the window. They have watched that foolishness on television...those showoffs, those shysters, those con men, and don't want any of it.

***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.

¹ Taken from a June 2000 article by Dan Martin in *Pulpit Helps* entitled, "Get Hold of Spirit Rather Than White House," pp. 1, 11.

"But how are you going to run a church without the Holy Spirit? Trying to do so results in little one-hour packaged 'protestant masses,' where there is no spontaneity, no Spirit, no anointing."

Finally, commenting on the many social problems facing America today, Cymbala said, "Don't tell me it's the culture, the environment. It is the lack of the presence of the Holy Spirit and His power in our lives. We are not going to change it by computers and committees or by fanaticism or foolishness or emotionalism or by throwing the Holy Spirit out of our churches.

"We need a revival. We need a Holy Ghost revival. We need the power of God in our lives."

With the need for revival in mind we began a new series last week, "*Revive Us Again!*" We're looking at biblical examples of revival. Our aim? To seek God's answer to some critical questions: What is revival? If revival occurred today, what would it look like? Is there anything we can do to prepare a climate for revival?

Last week we looked at a revival that took place in Hezekiah's day in 2 Chronicles 29. We saw five marks of revival: repentance, rededication, reconciliation, recovery of true worship, and rejoicing. What a great day for God's people! Hezekiah was one of the greatest kings to reign in Jerusalem. He had his flaws (such as pride), yet God used him greatly.

What happened after Hezekiah passed from the scene? Hezekiah died in 687 BC. Forty-seven years passed before Hezekiah's great-grandson Josiah took the throne. Know this. A lot can happen in 47 years.

Just 47 years ago it was 1964. Is our country different today than it was in 1964? There have been technological changes, for sure. And moral changes.

What happened in the 47 year period between Hezekiah's death and Josiah's birth? Judah experienced two kinds of changes...

1. *Political Changes* -- Do you remember who the "king of the hill" was in Hezekiah's day? The Assyrians were (they conquered the ten northern Jewish tribes in 722 BC, and almost obliterated Judah until the Lord miraculously slew 185,000 Assyrian troops in 702 BC). During the 47 year period following Hezekiah's death, Assyria lost her world dominance. Another power began raising its vicious and aggressive head, the Babylonians.

2. *Spiritual Changes* -- In 47 years the nation of Judah went from being on fire for God to being stone cold again. It all hinged on the leadership. Ahaz had been a wicked king, but revival occurred under his son Hezekiah. Things went great for several years. Then what happened? Hezekiah eventually died, and his son, Manasseh, became king. He ruled a long time, but unlike his father, he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD. To the contrary, "he did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations (33:2)." Consequently, a major spiritual deterioration occurred under Manasseh (for specifics, read 33:3-6). So much so that we're told in 2 Chronicles 33:9, "But Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites."

Later in his life, Manasseh humbled himself, but the damage to the nation had been done. Further spiritual deterioration took place under his son, Amon (33:21-23), and sadly, he never did humble himself and repent, and consequently was assassinated by his own officials in his own palace.

So once again things were bleak in Judah. And once again the stage was ripe for *revival*.

Friends, when it comes to revival, we can't live in the past. We can't stockpile God's blessings. The time for revival may come again and again, since we are prone to wander. That's what we're going to see this morning as we open our Bibles to 2 Chronicles 34.

Who was the catalyst that God used for revival this time? His name was Josiah, and he was a fascinating person. You can't help but like Josiah! God graciously used him and blessed him and blessed His people through his godly leadership. There's a lot we can learn from Josiah. When we dig into 2 Chronicles 34, we observe six actions from Josiah's life that related to the revival of his day. Let me give them to you, and then we'll walk through the story and ponder them one by one:

- I. Removed Sin (1-7)
- II. Repaired the Temple (8-13)
- III. Recovered God's Law (14-18)
- IV. Responded with Obedience (19-21)
- V. Received God's Favor (22-28)
- VI. Renewed the Covenant (29-33)

So there's what happened. Now let's see how it happened. It was the death of Amon that set the stage, and remember, he was assassinated by his own officials (33:24). In fact, the conspiracy almost turned into civil war when the rest of the people slew the assassins! But in the year 640 BC, the people made Amon's son their king.

Notice verse 1, "Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years." Does that sound incredible to you, an eight year old boy reigning as king? Actually, it wasn't terribly uncommon in those days, and in this case, the people knew that royal and messianic blood flowed in the veins of this boy-king. What's more, Josiah undoubtedly had political advisors that guided him until he reached maturity.

Even as a young boy, something stands out about Josiah (whose name means, "the Lord supports"). God's gracious hand was upon him. His dad certainly didn't teach him about living for the Lord. His grandfather, who died when Josiah was six, certainly didn't instill godliness either. But Josiah took a different path. By God's grace, Josiah resembled his great-grandfather Hezekiah. Verse 2 sums up his life, telling us, "He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left."

Now there's a great testimony! Ezra probably wrote Chronicles. He already recounted the life of David in 1 Chronicles 11-29, affirming that "the LORD Almighty was with him (1 Chr 11:9). And now he pays a great compliment to this young boy, Josiah, telling us that he is such a godly person he reminds you of David!

So what happened in the revival in Josiah's day? We're going to see Josiah as the subject of six activities.

I. He removed sin (3-7).

Something significant happened in Josiah's life when he was 16. Verse 3, "In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David."

He sought God. As a teenager, a young man of 16, with the responsibility of an entire nation on his shoulders, he looked to the God of David. He entered into a personal relationship with the Lord.

Friends, no one is born with that relationship, even a person in David's bloodline. We all enter this world as sinners, without the Lord in our lives, and in desperate need of Him and His saving grace. As a teenager, Josiah admitted that. He began to seek the God of his father.

Know this. There can be no revival without this fundamental relationship.

I'm not sure the seeking process lasted for Josiah, perhaps weeks, or months. But I do know that by the time he turned twenty, the Lord was very real to him. I know that because when Josiah was twenty, he took some specific and very controversial action. Verse 3b explains, "In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images."

Josiah did the same thing Hezekiah had done. He looked around him. What he saw was appalling, both to him, and to God. He saw a country that was spiritually corrupt. How bad was it? If you check out 2 Kings 23, you'll see a record of what Josiah saw:

- male prostitutes
- altars where children were sacrificed to Molech (10)
- Chariots dedicated to the Sun god (11)
- Altars to false gods built on rooftops (12)
- High places, sacred stones, Asherah poles (13-14)
- Wicked priests and shrines in Samaria (19-20)
- Mediums and spiritists (24)

Things were so bad in Josiah's day that it almost makes the New Age movement in our day look like kid's stuff. The people of Josiah's day had abandoned the true God who had rescued them from bondage in Egypt and given them the promised land and turned to astrology and all sorts of abominable, pagan practices.

So what did Josiah do when he saw all this? At the age of twenty he made an executive decision to get rid of it all! Here's what happened, according to verses 4-7, "Under his direction the altars of the Baals were torn down; he cut to pieces the incense altars that were above them, and smashed the Asherah poles, the idols and the images. These he broke to pieces and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. He burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and so he purged Judah and Jerusalem. In the towns of Manasseh, Ephraim and Simeon, as far as Naphtali, and in the ruins around them, he tore down the altars and the Asherah poles and crushed the idols to powder and cut to pieces all the incense altars throughout Israel. Then he went back to Jerusalem."

He may have been young, but he had Spirit-produced guts, didn't he? He tore down the very objects set up by his own father and grandfather because he knew he had a higher priority than family honor, and that was the honor of the Lord Himself.

Friends, this revival started when one young king determined to get rid of sin from his life, his family, and his nation. I know we are not kings and we do not have the same national authority Josiah did, but there's a lesson here for us...

If you want to experience revival in your life, sin has to go, and that may take drastic action. The kind of action that Jesus talked about when He told the crowd in Matthew 5:29, "If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."

You say, "God isn't real in my life. I don't even want to come to church or read my Bible. What's my problem?" It may be this. Do you have things in your life that you know are displeasing to the Lord? Those things are doing something to you. They are robbing you of the satisfaction that Christ alone can give to your empty soul. It's sort of like eating junk food all afternoon and wondering why you're not hungry for the wonderful meal your mom puts on the dinner table in the evening.

Let me be specific. If we're going to follow Josiah's example, young people, you may need to get rid of some DVDs and CDs that are putting images and thoughts in your mind that dishonor your Lord. Men, and ladies too, there may be some pornographic images on your

computer that you need to destroy, or people you need to stop hanging out with, or even attitudes that need to go.

The point is, when sin is present, it must be removed, even if it takes drastic action. And of course, it always takes drastic action. That's why God sent His own Son to the cross. Sin is a big deal, and it cost God's Son His very life so that we might be set free from it. How can we hold on to that for which He died?

There's activity #1. Josiah removed sin.

II. He repaired the temple (8-13).

Notice verse 8, "In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, to purify the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan son of Azaliah and Maaseiah the ruler of the city, with Joah son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the temple of the LORD his God."

Now it's the eighteenth year, and Josiah is 26 years old. This eighteenth year was perhaps his greatest! What a year it was! What major priority task did Josiah undertake that year? According to verse 8, he sent individuals "to repair the house of the Lord his God (KJV)."

So Josiah decided it was time to clean up the temple. These repairs would take personnel and money. Josiah authorized both. Listen to verses 9-13: "They went to Hilkiah the high priest and gave him the money that had been brought into the temple of God, which the Levites who were the doorkeepers had collected from the people of Manasseh, Ephraim and the entire remnant of Israel and from all the people of Judah and Benjamin and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Then they entrusted it to the men appointed to supervise the work on the LORD's temple. These men paid the workers who repaired and restored the temple. They also gave money to the carpenters and builders to purchase dressed stone, and timber for joists and beams for the buildings that the kings of Judah had allowed to fall into ruin. The men did the work faithfully. Over them to direct them were Jahath and Obadiah, Levites descended from Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, descended from Kohath. The Levites -- all who were skilled in playing musical instruments -- had charge of the laborers and supervised all the workers from job to job. Some of the Levites were secretaries, scribes and doorkeepers."

Now look carefully. When did Josiah repair the temple? In his eighteenth year. How long had the temple been neglected? Well, Amon reigned two years. And Manasseh forty-four years² (although he did repair the altar 33:16). Just think of the implications. God's people had been neglecting God's House for nearly five decades. The temple was supposed to be the focal point of their life, yet their priorities had been all messed up. *Their* concerns had taken first place, and God's concerns second.

Friends, *we are in trouble when our concerns take first place, and God's concerns second.* And it often shows up in the way we treat His temple, and of course, His temple today is the church. Brothers and sisters, if revival occurs, our priorities will change, and especially the priority we give to the Lord and His worship.

What are your priorities? Take a moment and think. What place am I giving to the Lord and His house and His worship?

We're looking at six activities associated with the revival under Josiah. First, Josiah removed sin. Second, he repaired the Temple, and during the renovation week something dramatic happened, which brings us to the third activity.

² Actually Manasseh reigned 55 years, but part of this time was apparently a co-rulership with his father, Hezekiah. He reigned on his own from 686 BC (the date Hezekiah died) until his death in 642 BC.

III. He recovered God's Law (14-18).

Verse 14 tells about it, "While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the temple of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD that had been given through Moses."

Wow! That must have been some discovery, to find the Law of God. It is not clear whether they found the entire Pentateuch, or perhaps just the book of Deuteronomy. It's called the "Book of the Covenant" in verse 30. In either case, the discovery was none other than an 800 year old book, but not just *any* book. It was the book God had revealed through Moses. It was the Word of God.

Who actually found the Book of the Law? Verse 14 says that Hilkiah the priest did. And where was it? Valuable records and documents were placed in cornerstones of important buildings. It's possible that when Solomon built the temple four centuries earlier he had his workmen put a copy of God's Law in the cornerstone of the temple. And when Josiah's construction crew renovated the dilapidated temple, they found it.

What did Hilkiah do with it? Verse 15 states that Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan. Shaphan was the scribe. And what did Shaphan do? He went to Josiah and took along two things. First, the discovered book. And second, the report that the repair work was done (as explained in verses 16-17).

I have a question. What in the world had Hilkiah been doing?! Remember his occupation. He was the high priest (9), and as such his job was to serve in the temple. That was His God-given assignment, to represent the nation before the Lord, to make sure proper sacrifices were being offered, that the people were learning and living the law. That was his job as the high priest. And apparently, Hilkiah has been receiving a salary for his services for years. But what has he and the other priests been doing?! The temple is in shambles! The Law of God has been lost! And nobody even noticed it.

Sadly, the same kind of abuse happens in our day. There are "churches" that are paying salaries to pastors who are not fulfilling their God-given calling. And few people seem to care. Many pastors these days seem to view the church as a business. They see themselves as CEO's. They run programs. They take care of the church operation. And some are quite good at it. Efficient. Motivational. Productive. And their congregations are happy too, that is, as long the church machinery keeps meeting their needs.

Just one not-so-very-little problem. They're neglecting the very purpose for which God gave pastors to the church in the first place. What does God expect (and thus, what should churches expect) of church leaders? Acts 6:4 says it in plain terms, for there the apostles stated, "[We must] give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."³

But it's not just the priests in Josiah's day, or some pastors in our day. This is a question for each us of. Have you neglected God's Word? It's tragic, yet true. *God's Word is more available to us in America than to any people that have ever lived.* More available, but so often, more *neglected*. How many Bibles do you have?

I hope you treasure your Bible. And I hope you show you treasure it by opening it every day and reading it, by praying over it, by memorizing it, and by building your life on it.

What effect did this discovery have on Josiah? I want you to see his fourth activity. Josiah removed sin, repaired the temple, recovered the Law, and then...

IV. He responded with obedience (19-21).

³ Peter elaborated in his counsel to the elders in 1 Peter 5:2, "Be shepherds of God's flock (or, "Feed the flock of God," as the KJV puts it)."

According to verse 19, "When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes." What Josiah heard hit him like a ton of bricks. For the first time in his life, apparently, he actually heard the Word of God. And it struck home.

Notice two things he did. First, he responded to God's Word with respect—he tore his robes. And second, he responded with a desire to obey, as evidenced by what he did in verses 20-21: "He gave these orders to Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Abdon son of Micah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king's attendant: 'Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the remnant in Israel and Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the LORD's anger that is poured out on us because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written in this book.'"

Josiah wanted to know the implications of what he heard. Apparently the priest read to him from Deuteronomy, perhaps passages such as these:

Deuteronomy 4:24—"The LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God."

Deuteronomy 28:58–60—"If you do not carefully follow all the words of this law, which are written in this book, and do not revere this glorious and awesome name—the LORD your God—the LORD will send fearful plagues on you and your descendants, harsh and prolonged disasters, and severe and lingering illnesses. He will bring upon you all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded, and they will cling to you."

And what he heard hit him hard. As a 26 year old ruler of God's people, he heard a same message we need to hear. *God won't play second fiddle in the lives of His people.* And if we try, He will take action to get our attention and vindicate His holy name.

Let's learn from Josiah. Josiah reminds us that when we hear God's Word, we need to believe it and take steps immediately to obey it.

That brings us to the fifth activity associated with Josiah's revival. He removed sin, repaired the temple, recovered the Law, responded with obedience, and then...

V. He received God's favor (22-28).

In verse 22, "Hilkiah and those the king had sent with him went to speak to the prophetess Huldah, who was the wife of Shallum son of Tokhath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the Second District."

That strikes me as odd. Who did Hilkiah interview to find out what God had in store for Josiah? Was it the prophet Jeremiah? No, perhaps because he lived three miles away in the city of Anathoth. Who was it? Huldah.

Who was Huldah? She was a prophetess, and the wife of Shalum. Furthermore, she was a keeper of the wardrobe who lived in Jerusalem. What message did God reveal through Huldah? According to verses 23-28, it was a two part message.

Part one was for the nation of Judah. It's in verses (23-25). The message was sobering. The Lord said that Judah was too far gone to be restored. The people had given God a backseat in their lives once too many times. God announced that He would inflict the people with the curses as promised in the Law.

Part two of the message, that's verses 26-28, was for Josiah. The Lord announced He would be merciful to Josiah. Why? For four reasons specified in verse 27, "Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before God when you heard what he spoke against this place and its people, and because you humbled yourself before me and tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the LORD."

Don't miss these four reasons: 1) His heart was tender; and 2) He humbled himself before God; 3) He responded with reverence to God's Word; 4) He wept when he considered the implications of sin.

So the nation was doomed, but to spare righteous Josiah, God promised to stay the impending judgment until after his death. What does that teach us about God? This...

God is merciful to undeserving sinners if they will humble themselves before Him.

Friends, is it possible for a sinner to be under the sentence of God's wrath, and yet escape the just punishment of that sentence? Praise God, yes! Look at what He did with Josiah. God graciously allowed Josiah to hear His Word, a message of judgment. But when Josiah heard it, he humbled himself and sought the Lord. And what did the Lord do? In His mercy, He spared Josiah and told him he would die in peace. And amazingly, He says the same to sinners today, if they will only humble themselves before Him and put their trust in His beloved Son.

One final activity...

VI. He renewed the covenant (29-33).

Listen to what happened in verses 29-33, "Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. He went up to the temple of the LORD with the men of Judah, the people of Jerusalem, the priests and the Levites -- all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD. The king stood by his pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD -- to follow the LORD and keep his commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book. Then he had everyone in Jerusalem and Benjamin pledge themselves to it; the people of Jerusalem did this in accordance with the covenant of God, the God of their fathers. Josiah removed all the detestable idols from all the territory belonging to the Israelites, and he had all who were present in Israel serve the LORD their God. As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the LORD, the God of their fathers."

Revival historically has often involved three key ingredients. It starts with one man who gets right with God and then prompts others to do the same. Second, it happens as the result of the Word of God. And third, it takes place in conjunction with prayer. *A godly leader, the Word, and prayer.* We see all three in Josiah's case.

And what were the effects of this revival? The text mentions two types. There was an immediate effect and there was the long-term effect. What was the immediate effect? We see it in chapter 35, the greatest Passover in centuries (see 35:18)! Judah sacrificed over 30,000 animals!

Unfortunately the long-term effect wasn't as lasting (see 35:20ff). Josiah caught wind that the Egyptian army was passing through his land. So he challenged Neco, and later while disguised, was fatally wounded by an arrow shot. He was only 39 years old.

What happened after Josiah died? Three things, and they're all sad.

One, Jeremiah the prophet mourned (25). He actually composed "laments" for Josiah. In fact, listen to 2 Kings 23:25, "And like him was there no king before him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law; neither after him arose there any like him."

Two, the people turned their backs on the Lord. That's exactly what we see when we read chapter 36 (see 36:5, 9, 12, 14, 15-16).

And three, God judged His people. How? He raised up the Babylonians who invaded and conquered Judah and carried the Jews into captivity (36:17). And so ends the book of 2 Chronicles!

So, we have to ask a question. What was missing from the revival in Josiah's day? It was so impressive, but it didn't last. Why not? Something was missing, and it's what many who talk about revival miss today.

Take a close look at a phrase in 2 Chronicles 34:33, "As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the LORD."

Friends, Josiah cleaned up the mess he could see in Judah, but he couldn't clean up the mess he couldn't see. He got rid of the pagan altars and relics, but he couldn't get rid of the sin in the hearts of his people. And so, after he was gone, the people returned to their old ways.

It's not that what he did was bad, for it was very good. It was just insufficient. He couldn't change what needed to change in order for change to last.

That's why our primary concern, as a church must not be with externals, but with the *heart* (that goes for parents too). Our goal is not to get people to act like Christians, but to *be* Christians. And becoming a Christian requires a heart change, and a heart change is something that God alone can produce.

It's significant that the book of Chronicles has a lot to say about the "heart" (there are thirty-five references). At the end of his life David said in 1 Chronicles 28:9, "For the LORD searches every heart." And in 29:17, "I know, my God, that you test the heart." David told Solomon in 1 Chronicles 22:19, "Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the LORD your God."

Someone has well said, "Reformation without was a shoddy substitute for repentance within."⁴ In other words, you can clean up your life, sort of and for awhile, but if it's going to last, something needs to happen on the inside. That's what the sinner needs, and what God alone can produce, a heart that is set on pleasing the Lord.

Jeremiah served as a prophet during Josiah's life. Jeremiah wrote one of the longest books in the Bible. But Jeremiah hardly mentions the reform that happened under Josiah. Why not?

Ponder the prophet's assessment of his people in Jeremiah 5:23, "But these people have *stubborn and rebellious hearts*; they have turned aside and gone away."

Let's talk application. Revival is NOT saying, "I'm going to quit smoking." Or, "I'm going to give \$500 to the church." Or, "I'm going to read my Bible everyday." No. Those are good, but those are externals. Those kinds of things follow revival, but genuine revival starts when two things happen *in your heart*.

Application: To experience genuine revival, two things must happen *in your heart*...

1. *You repent of your sins.*
2. *You place your trust and confidence in Jesus Christ.*

He's the only one that can change the human heart. That's what you need, my non-Christian friend. You need to repent and put your trust in Christ, and do it *in your heart*.

But it's also what you and I need, my *Christian* friend. We must also repent and put our trust in Christ in our hearts, and it needs to happen every day. Not for salvation, but for Christian living. We need Christ every day.

⁴ William LaSor