

What Should We Expect When Revival Comes?

What should we expect when the Holy Spirit comes in revival?

Many Christians pray for revival and long that God might come to awaken His Church.

But when He comes in power it is **not** what they expected!

Acts 1:4-5 [NIV] *“On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.”*

Did the disciples understand what Christ was telling them?

I don't think they did as the next verse indicates.

Acts 1:6 [NIV] *“So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”*

Freedom from the Roman occupation was what they still expected the Messiah to bring to their nation.

Acts 1:7-8 [NIV] *“He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Christ told them they would receive “power” ability, strength to be witnesses for Christ. The word used by Christ [witnesses] also means MARTYR!

This was **not** what this frightened group of disciples wanted to hear from a leader who was about to leave them.

What happened on the day that the Holy Spirit came was **not** what was expected.

What should we expect if God answers our prayers and comes among us in power?

Revival is unpredictable

John 3:8 [NIV] *“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”*

It is important to realise that the Holy Spirit is sovereign [God] and moves in a way He chooses in each situation. He is unpredictable like the wind, we cannot tell when He comes or how He will move.

Not all revivals will start with the sound of a rushing wind as in the Solomon Islands revival in 1970.

Every revival is unique, therefore it is dangerous to read of one revival and expect ours to be the same.

One thing is sure, when revival comes, it is God breaking into our church and into our lives in a powerful and perhaps unusual way.

Revival is God coming to wake up careless and complacent Christians.

Revival is God coming unexpectedly into His temple to cleanse and purify His people.

Malachi 3:1-5 [NIV] *“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. “So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty.”*

The Holy Spirit will bring a new and more profound awareness of the truths that we have previously held intellectually.

The Holy Spirit will **humble us**.

The Holy Spirit will **convict us** of sin to the extent we may feel we have never seen real Christians before. Cause us to realise that we have been Christians in name only, not in substance.

The Holy Spirit will **quicken and enliven our prayer and praise**.

The Holy Spirit will **give new power to the preaching of His ministers** that will result in large numbers of people being converted into believers.

Revival will bring disturbance

Because revival comes suddenly, it will catch many by surprise, and it may **not** happen as people expect.

God’s visitation will shake us out of our complacency.

The Holy Spirit will challenge us deeply.

The Holy Spirit will convict us strongly of any sins that are preventing God from blessing His Church.

The coming of the Holy Spirit with power will overturn the normal order of things.

Revival is God coming to wake up His Church and to refine and purify His people.

Are we prepared to be taken out of our “comfort zone” in such a disturbing way?

True revival starts within the church but bursts out into the world as the Holy Spirit mobilises God’s people into evangelism and mission.

Acts 1:8 [NIV] *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

The primary motivation and task that the Holy Spirit will compel and empower God’s people to fulfil is to seek and save the lost.

The seed that the Church has been sowing [if this is being done now!!] will result in an abundant and supernatural harvest.

Revival will bring disturbing reactions in the church.

Revival is longed for in times of barrenness such as we are now experiencing, but often opposed and feared when it arrives.

Why?

Revival is threatening to the established order of things and this brings conflict, fear, division and even opposition from other Christians.

Revival intensifies spiritual warfare for Satan will oppose every advance of God's Kingdom, he will do all he is allowed to hinder, spoil and destroy what God is doing.

Because of all these things, when the Holy Spirit comes in revival **not** everyone will accept or welcome it.

Revival leaders of the past such as Jonathan Edwards, Charles Finney, John Wesley and Evan Roberts all experience great opposition and criticism especially from leaders within the church.

So be prepared!

Learn to recognise the genuine move of God and when it comes, be wholeheartedly involved in it.