

LESSONS IN REVIVAL



LESSONS IN REVIVAL:

- Why Ephesians? Church living in renewal. Transformed community
- **First, there is a sovereign component to revival.** (Acts 19 – Seven sons of Sceva) God orchestrated this divine event that led to a spiritual shift in the church at Ephesus. (other renewals triggered by war, economic crisis, and moral collapse that moved people to pray) (Finney – people praying, nothing happened. “Would you like us to pray for you?” The Sovereign hand of God chose Finney to be the key instrument)

LESSONS IN REVIVAL:

- **Second, there is a human response in revival.** The people of Ephesus chose in. They surrendered to Jesus. They stopped their syncretistic, selective following, and broke free from their secret deeds. (Acts 19:17f, “When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done.

LESSONS IN REVIVAL:

- **Second, there is a human response in revival.** (Acts 19:17f, “A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together & burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.”)
- Key human responses: Repentance; Seeking; Jesus centered living

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- **Second, there is a human response in revival.**
- Charles Finney, “A revival is no more a miracle than a crop of wheat. In any community revival can be secured from heaven when heroic souls enter the conflict determined to win or die – or if need be to win and die! – The kingdom of God suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.” (Revival is God’s will; it is the norm)

LESSONS IN REVIVAL:

- **Third, revelation of and response to the supremacy of Christ is critical for revival.** (Acts 19 – “the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor”) (Eph 1:20, “That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule & authority, power & dominion, & every name that can be invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.”)

LESSONS IN REVIVAL:

- **Third, revelation of and response to the supremacy of Christ is critical for revival.**
- Pluralism teaches that Jesus is one among many & all paths are the same. Christianity teaches that Jesus is supreme over all. If pluralism rules, the church is un-revived. Jesus is utterly unique, and completely supreme.

LESSONS IN REVIVAL:

- **Fourth, we need to solidify our identity in Christ in order to live a life of revival.** (Eph 1-3) We will never rise above our revelatory understanding of who we are in Christ. (seated with Christ – Eph 2; Romans 8 – heirs of God, co-Heirs of Christ). Understanding who we are in Christ, changes how we act, how we live, how we pray, how we love. (renew our mind; John 8 – hold on; revelation of the Father’s adoptive love – sought, found, results)

LESSONS IN REVIVAL:

- **Fifth, revival is characterized by the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.** (Eph 3:14f; Eph 5:18, “Do not be drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”)
- We need the Holy Spirit’s presence & power to live a godly life, worthy of our calling (Eph 4).
- We need the Holy Spirit’s presence & power to live a life on Kingdom mission. (Eph 2 – living temple) (before & after) (in fighting the fires...)